

A HISTORY OF
HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

Gc
974.901
M53w
1750866

36

M. L.

Dr Irving Wolman
Compliments of
Joseph Bonaparte Rainier.

~~MTK~~
10-

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

✓

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 02246 9909

A HISTORY *of*
HAMILTON TOWNSHIP
MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

By
Helen Almy West

Copyright By
Helen Almy West
1 9 5 4

Trenton Printing Company, Inc.
Trenton, New Jersey

Printed in U.S.A.



BOW HILL, TRENTON, IN 1875

C O N T E N T S

I Early Settlements in New Jersey	5
II The First Inhabitants	7
III The Early Settlers	8
IV Some Historical Homes of Old Nottingham	11
V The Nottingham Town Book	43
VI An Ancient Burial Ground	53
VII General Washington's March Across The Township	56
VIII A Modest Hero	58
IX A Ghost Story of Old Nottingham	60
X When The Stars Fell	61
XI The Attempt to Navigate the Assanpink Creek	63
XII The Tuscaroras of Yardville	65
XIII Interesting Anecdotes of a Democratic Prince	67
XIV Commander Wm. Pearson of the Old U.S. Navy	70
XV Laurie's Mills	72
XVI The Bear Swamp	74
XVII The Mercer County Court House	75
XVIII Formation of the Township	76
XIX Hamilton Township	78
XX Churches	89
XXI Schools	91
XXII The Weather	96
XXIII Memorial Day	97
XXIV The Fashion Stud Farm	98
XXV The New Jersey State Fair	100
XXVI The Villages within the Township and their histories	101

DEDICATION

To the memory of my father, who early taught me a love of history—and to the present and future residents of Hamilton Township, I dedicate this history of its past.

HELEN ALMY WEST

CHAPTER I

EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN NEW JERSEY

THE first settlement in what is now New Jersey was made in Bergen in 1620. About 1627 the Swedes founded a settlement on the west banks of the Delaware in what is now the State of Delaware. They called the river "New Swedeland Stream", but it had already received the name "Delaware River" from Thomas West (Lord Delaware) who was Governor of the Colony at Jamestown, Virginia, and who died on shipboard near the mouth of the river about the year 1617.

A few years after the Swedes settled in Delaware, a settlement was made in New Jersey along the Delaware Bay, but this was soon abandoned and as late as 1643 there was not a solitary European in New Jersey south of the Raritan Bay, and very few above that point.

Charles II, King of England, had granted to his brother James, Duke of York, a tract which included much of the present New England and Middle Atlantic States. On June 24, 1664, James, Duke of York, released to Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret, in consideration of a sum of money, all the tract now known as New Jersey. It was stipulated in the grant that the tract should be known as Nova Cesarea, or New Jersey, in honor of Carteret who had been Governor of the Isle of Jersey in the English Channel. Philip Carteret was appointed the first Governor.

On July 1, 1676, New Jersey was divided into two sections, East Jersey and West Jersey. Sir George Carteret received East Jersey, and Lord John Berkeley received West Jersey. Lord Berkeley had sold his share to Edward Billinge, who had made an assignment to William Penn, Gawen Lawrie, and Nicholas Lucas, and these three men received West Jersey in trust for Edward Billinge.

The line of division between East Jersey and West Jersey, called the Province Line, runs from Little Egg Harbor to the northwest corner of the State, and is the eastern boundary of Hamilton Township.

In 1682 William Penn, Robert West, and ten others, purchased East Jersey from the devisees of Sir George Carteret, and they then associated with them twelve other men, and to these twenty-four proprietors the Duke of York executed his last grant of lands in New Jersey. Under this group of men, East Jersey was free from religious intolerance, and hundreds of excellent families of English and Scotch came to East

Jersey. In 1702 the proprietors of the Jerseys surrendered their holdings to Queen Anne, and from that time the Governors were appointed by the Crown.

Prior to the division between East and West Jersey quite a number of Quakers and others had settled in West Jersey. In 1676 a few settled at the mouth of the Assunpink Creek (Trenton) and others settled at Jegoes Island (Burlington).

In 1677 two companies of Quakers, one in Yorkshire and the other in London, made a purchase of some of the West Jersey lands, and they sent over commissioners to negotiate with the Indians. These commissioners were Thomas Olive, Daniel Wills, John Kinsey, John Penford, Joseph Helmsley, Robert Stacy, Benjamin Scott and Richard Guy. They bought all the lands in West Jersey that they thought worth buying, except for a few plantations which were reserved by the Indians.

Wherever the Quakers settled, their policy was peace, and it is due to them that the greater part of New Jersey and part of Pennsylvania was settled without the usual troubles with the Indians. The treaty of Penn with the Indians was never broken and no Indian war whoop ever disturbed the rest of the Quaker pioneer. In writing the history of Hamilton Township there are no bloody battles with the Indians to record, for none ever happened. Many tomahawks and arrowheads have been dug up in the Township, but these were used by the Indians in wars among themselves and in bringing down game long before the advent of the white man.

CHAPTER II

THE FIRST INHABITANTS

When the first white settlers landed at what is now the city of Burlington and came north to what is now our township, undoubtedly there were furtive watchers in the thickets.

These furtive watchers were Leni-Lenape Indians, the first inhabitants of Yorkshire Tenth, later Nottingham Township. For more years than man can name they had traveled up and down the length and breath of the country that was to become New Jersey.

The Leni-Lenapes were not a prolific tribe and probably never exceeded one thousand for the whole State. They were a peaceful people, great fishermen, great huntsmen, and fair agriculturists. They were hospitable to a fault and the first white settlers were able to go about the establishment of their homes without fear of hostile Indians. Our early settlers had little difficulty with the Leni-Lenapes.

Much of their peaceful relations with the Indians can be attributed to the untiring efforts of certain early Christian missionaries, the most noted in this section being the saintly Brainerd. However, it was difficult for the Leni-Lenape to grasp the white man's theological ideas of Christian religion; they lacked the ability to grasp so altruistic a faith; they were confused by it and, therefore, never more than temporarily convinced. For this reason, perhaps, the Quakers, with their lack of outward formalism, and the spirit of justice in their dealings with the Indians, helped to maintain peace and order.

But the first inhabitants—the Leni-Lenapes—have left little imprint upon our civic life today. Except in the retention of place names, many now corrupted by long usage; a varying and uncertain strain of blood in a very few families; a collection of stone, shell and bone ornaments; oddments of pottery, some implements, and so on, no trace of the kindly, gentle Leni-Lenape Indians remains in our township today.

CHAPTER III

THE EARLY SETTLERS

On December 10, 1678, the good ship "Shield" arrived from Hull, England, and anchored at what is now the city of Burlington. The morning after its arrival the passengers went ashore on the ice.

Among the passengers on that ship were Mahlon Stacy, who built the first mill at Trenton on the Assumpink; Thomas Lambert, for whom Lamberton was named; Thomas Potts, Thomas Newell, Thomas Wood, Godfrey Newbold, John Newbold, Richard Green, Isaac Watson, Robert Pearson, and many others.

Of the early arrivals, the English nationality predominated. These people were Episcopalians and Quakers, with the Quakers having a slight edge on the Episcopalians numerically. Some few of the Hamilton Township forefathers were Scotch, Irish, Holland Dutch, and also a few Swedes and French Huguenots, but the records prove that at least nine-tenths of the early inhabitants were English.

Some came for the love of adventure. The famous and grand eloquent Plantagenet published a book in 1648 entitled "A Description of the Provinces of New Albion" (New Jersey). This book was widely quoted and was sold extensively throughout England and other European countries as late as 1680. In this book, New Albion was described as a place where, with small stock, a person could get two for one, and good land freely. All gentlemen, servants, laborers and artificers could live plentifully, and New Albion was "likened unto Lombardy, with rich, fat soil—having 34 rivers on the mainland, 17 great isles and partaketh of the healthiest aire, and most excellent commodities. All kinds of woods are to be found in profusion, fish, fowl, corn, silkgrass, salt, good mines, dyers' ware, five sorts of deer, buffes, and huge elk, to plow and work, all bringing three younge at once. There are countless hogges and turkeys—500 in a flock—and rice, flax, grapes and berrys abound. There is an infinite quantity of bustards, swans, and geese. Turkeys of weighte 46 pounds, whales and grampus swim the seas. Ships of 140 tons may come up to these Falls of the Delaware, which is the Seat of Healthe"—and so on.

Such a description of a new land would stimulate the imagination of many today, and it is no small wonder that many set forth on the voyage to a new world.

However, most of our early settlers had a more prosaic interest in the promises of the New Land. The age of fable touching

the mother country's trans-Atlantic possessions was waning, and had begun to give place to a period when sober, common sense was asserting itself. The then reigning Charles II, King of England, was nothing, if not profuse, with his generosity in land grants, and had given New Jersey to his brother James, Duke of York, who, in turn, released the land to Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret. Subsequently the land came under the jurisdiction of the proprietors and it was left to them the burden of "peopling their grants and establishing suitable governments for their land overseas." The British Isles and, indeed, most of Europe, were flooded with pamphlets, tracts, circulars, and volumes of other written material which spread the gospel of colonization and gave promise that New Jersey was a place where "man could find health, liberty, the enjoyment of perfect happiness, and the assurance of a just government."

The power of these writings, together with the fact that England had been at peace long enough to cause rural and municipal industries to thrive to such a degree that the problem of congested population in large and small centers had become a serious factor in social and civic life, combined to form the actuating force that induced our founders to seek newer, broader, less congested fields of enterprise. However, these early settlers realized that though the land may be fruitful, the going would be rough, and they brought articles of equipment to help them in the new land. They expected to work, and work hard, to establish themselves.

Even so, one wonders if their spirits may not have been dampened when, after the long, hazardous voyage of a trans-Atlantic fall and winter crossing of 1678, they first set foot upon the wilderness, the Yorkshire Tenth, that was to become their beloved old Nottingham, and subsequently Hamilton Township. Our Hamilton Township forefathers braved the vast, wintry ocean, much of which was still uncharted and, boarding the frail ships of their day, with their few meagre possessions, brought their brawn and courage, their talents and skills, and their vision of the future, to a wilderness populated only by a handful of Leni-Lenape Indians.

Some of these early settlers were from rural districts in their home lands, and thus arrived here with an advance knowledge of farming. This, however, did not lessen the amount of their toil nor the arduousness of their manifold tasks of breaking and clearing the virgin soil, and of selecting and felling and hewing the mighty timbers for their dwellings, of cracking the stone for foundations and, at the same time, hunting for game and procuring other kinds of food to sustain them and their families. The fertile fields of their

new homeland were, in comparison, a far cry from the congested farm lands of their native countries, which had been in constant cultivation long centuries before their time.

All of our forebearers were not farmers. They were tradesmen, wheelwrights, tailors, shipbuilders, carpenters. They were representative of all walks of endeavor and of all conditions of social, educational and economic station. But, since the cultivation of the soil meant the progress of life to the settler, whether he were a tailor, wheelwright, or scholar, he had to acquire a knowledge more or less intimate with agricultural life. Hence, the farmer, in early Hamilton Township, became the dominant figure.

The Minute Book of Old Nottingham Township records that in 1695 the taxable persons were: Mahlon Stacy, Thomas Lambert, William Embly, John Lambert, Jr., Samuel Overton, William Quicksall, Sara Scholey, Mathew Clayton, Moses Petit, Ralph Hunt, Joshua Wright, John Rogers, Anna Warson, Anthony Woodward, Isaac Watson, Joshua Ely, John Brearley, Thomas Green, Charles Biles, William Biddle, Ann Pharo, John Lambert, Sr., Thomas Coleman, Robert Pearson, Thomas Gillenthorp, William Watson, Nathaniel Petit, Jonathan Davis, Theophilus Phillips, Martin Scott, John Abbott, William Hixson, Thomas Tindall, Benjamin Maxle, John Lees, Richard Ridge-way, Samuel Hunt, Thomas Smith, William Stevens and John Richardson.

Eight years later, in the records of 1703, the names of Caleb Wheatley, John Tantum, William Warson, Matthew Grane, William Stevens, Gervas Hall, Thomas Silverthorp, Sylvanus King, Henry Scott, Abraham Marshall, Francis Davenport and Matthew Watson were added to the list of taxable persons. The acres they possessed ranged from thirty to 1,350 and the largest land owners were Robert Pearson and William Stevens, each having 1,350 acres.

From 1703 and on, there came to old Nottingham Township many fine families from Long Island and East Jersey. From Long Island came the Stouts, Cubberleys, Howells, Mounts, Clarks, Scudders, Lannings, Reeds and Appletons. From East Jersey came the Wests, Hutchinsons, Hammells, Eldridges, Nelsons, Butchers and Hughes. From Middlesex came the families of Vannest, Dey and Flock.

These early settlers of Old Nottingham Township were the forefathers of many of our present inhabitants.

CHAPTER IV

SOME HISTORIC HOMES OF OLD NOTTINGHAM

The Pearson Homestead and the Story of its Builder

While there is no authentic record, it is assumed that the first dwellings in the township were tents and, later, log cabins.

The first house of which we have a record was built by Robert Pearson, the second, in 1706, the year that he married Elizabeth Tindall, this marriage taking place on July 25, 1706.

This house was erected high on the bluffs of the Crosswicks Creek, the approach from the road being up a long lane leading from the road a half mile east of White Horse. It was a large, plain-looking house, built of stone and stuccoed, the walls receding at the base of the upper story, forming a water table. The date of erection—1706—was originally shown in the roof peak until the hipped roof was taken off and replaced by a modern roof in 1825. When it was adorned with the original hipped roof, with dormer windows, it was a noble looking mansion. The window sashes that held in place the little panes of glass were of lead. During the Civil War the house was burned out by fire, but the solid old walls were not injured and it was repaired.

Robert Pearson called his home "South Hill" and it bore that name for more than 150 years. Descriptions of the homestead, handed down in the family, record that it was a beautiful place. A gigantic white oak tree, which was there long before the eyes of the white man first saw this country, stood a little to the westward of the mansion. It was cut down during the Civil War period.

Today, all that remains of the old mansion is a small part of the foundation wall and a stone slab which was the kitchen door step.

Robert Pearson was one of the first settlers in our township, coming from England on the good ship "Shield", which docked at what is now Burlington in the winter of 1678.

Robert Pearson had one child, who was born in 1686. He was named Robert, and was known as Robert Pearson, the second. He owned some 1,300 acres of land, which included what is now the village of White Horse.

Robert and Elizabeth Tindall Pearson lived in this house which he erected in 1706, and there ten children were born to them. Elizabeth died in 1722, and Robert later married Mary Coar, who bore him eight children, making him the

father of eighteen children, all born in this old house. Many of these children became prominent or became the ancestors of persons very prominent in the history of our State.

His daughter Mary married Philip Quigley, and was the mother of Captain Robert Quigley, and other sons, who saw service in the war of the Revolution. His daughter Elizabeth was the wife of John Hutchinson and the ancestor of a numerous branch of the Hutchinsons who became prominent in the county; his daughter Rachel married John Douglas, of Lambertown, and was the mother of Captain Alexander Douglas, at whose house in Trenton was planned the move that resulted in the victory at the Battle of Princeton; his daughter Sarah was the first wife of Andrew Reed, of Trenton, and some of her descendants are the Pettits, Ingersolls and Bayards of Philadelphia.

Robert Pearson's son Thomas married Sarah Hoff, of Trenton. They located in the township and have many descendants; his daughter Anne became the wife of Benjamin Yard, a well-known Trenton man of Revolutionary times; his daughter Grace wedded William Douglas, who served in the French and Indian Wars, 1755-1760; his daughter Achsah married William Imlay, who built and lived in the famed "Hopkinson House" at Bordentown; his son Isaac was a very prominent man in Colonial times. He was several times chosen as a legislator, was a member of the Committee of Safety, but lost his life during the Revolution.

His son Robert, the third, was also a man of sterling worth. During the Revolution he saved the State Treasurer, Samuel Tucker, from being carried off by the Tories.

The last and eighteenth child of Robert Pearson was Theodosia, who became the wife of the noted Trenton merchant, Abraham Hunt, and was the mother of eighteen children. It was this Abraham Hunt who held the convivial party that fascinated Colonel Rall, the Hessian Commander, the night before the Battle of Trenton, and this party lost him the victory. Abraham Hunt's home stood on the site of the Trenton Banking Company building at the northwest corner of State and Warren Streets, Trenton.

What a progeny can be traced back to this ancient mansion! Persons resided there who were born when Charles the Second was King of England.

After the death of its builder in 1763, it became the property of Robert Pearson, the third, who was the father of eleven children, and after his death in 1820, his two unmarried daughters, who were spoken of as "The Maids Pearson" inherited the property. About 1850 Bennington Gill, their

nephew, became the owner. Gill sold the property in 1858 and it then passed out of the hands of the descendants of its builder. It is now the property of the Bordentown Water Works, and their pumping station is located on a portion of the land.

The Pearson family were staunch adherents to the Church of England, and of its successor, the Episcopal Church.

The Watson House

Isaac Watson was born at Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire, England in 1670. His father was William Watson and he resided for some time at Kerlington, as well as at Farnsfield, and came to America in 1678. His children were William, Jr., Isaac, Elizabeth and John.

Isaac Watson, when a young man, became possessed of about 800 acres of land. In 1708 he erected his home, which is still standing on the bluffs of Watson's Creek at the foot of Park Avenue, in the Broad Street Park section of the township. It was this Isaac Watson who named the township NOTTINGHAM. His home was the handsomest in the township for many years. While some changes have been made, the old house retains the same contour and the date, 1708, is plainly visible in the front wall facing the creek.

It is probable that Isaac Watson's lands reached to the



The Watson House—1708.

Delaware River and included what is part of Riverview Cemetery, for the reason that when the old burying ground was secured by the cemetery company, some of the descendants of Isaac Watson proposed to attack the sale in the courts. They claimed that Watson had given the plot for a free burying ground for all time. In old records mention is made of the "burying ground of the people called Friends in Nottingham" and the old gravestones in Riverview Cemetery indicate the spot. It is assumed that Isaac Watson, his parents, as well as several generations of the Watsons are buried there.

When one looks at the Watson house, he at once realizes that he is in the presence of a hoary relic of the past. 1708! At that time the frontier of civilization was a few miles west of the Delaware, and the wilderness around here was only dotted here and there with homes. Trenton had no name, the locality being known as the Falls of the Delaware. Philadelphia was a little town, but larger than New York, and Boston was the largest town of all. Queen Anne was the sovereign. George Washington was not born until 24 years later, and of all the men of prominence in Revolutionary times whom we reverence as the builders of our nation, not one had yet been born save Benjamin Franklin, and he was one year old.

In well-built houses of olden times the dividing strips in the sash of the windows were made of lead to hold in place the little panes of glass. The sash in the Watson house were of lead, but during the Revolutionary War they were taken out to be melted into bullets for our troops, and wooden sash took their place.

The Watson house is eleven years older than Trenton's historic shrine, the Trent House, which was built in 1719. The old house today looks as if it would stand for centuries more, surrounded by the great venerable trees, many of which were its adult arboreal guardians even so long ago as the time of Queen Anne.

The last of the descendants of Isaac Watson who lived in the old house was Joseph Watson who was born in 1773 and died in 1837. He married Susannah West, daughter of William West, when she was not yet sixteen years of age. They began housekeeping there about 1795 and lived there for twenty years and were the parents of thirteen children.

As an object which connects the remote past with the present, there is none in our township or in the county of more interest than this ancient dwelling and, to the patriot the Watson house should be of special interest, for it yielded up a portion of its substance to help along the cause of liberty in 1776.

Today the Watson house is owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and leased to William Abrams, who makes his home there.

The Isaac Pearson Mansion and the Tragic End of Its Builder

On the third day of August 1739, there was born in the old stone Pearson mansion twin boys. They were named Isaac and Robert, and were the sons of Robert Pearson, the second, and their mother was Robert's second wife, Mary Coar.

Upon attaining his majority Isaac Pearson became possessed of the Tindall tract of land, having married a granddaughter of Thomas Tindall, who came from England in 1678. Upon this tract of land Isaac Pearson erected his home. Built on the then beautiful bluffs which overlook the valley of the Crosswicks Creek, the "Crosswicksung" of the Indians, one cannot help but admire the good taste of the builder.

It is a solid brick building, with thick walls and big rooms and, if kept properly roofed, will stand a thousand years. The west end of the mansion bears the date of its erection—1773—made of arch brick set endwise, forming gigantic figures which "he who runs may read."

Much entertaining was done in the old house, and could the walls but speak what tales could be told of the big feasts and parties held there, and attended by prominent worthies in gold-laced coats and powdered wigs.



Isaac Pearson Mansion—1773.

Isaac Pearson was a prominent man and was honored by the people in many ways. He was several times elected a member of the Assembly, and was wealthy as wealth was counted in those days, being able in 1773 to erect the splendid mansion he was destined to enjoy but a few years.

Mr. Pearson and his family had no sooner settled in the new home than the mutterings of the Revolutionary War began to be heard. At the beginning of the trouble with the mother country, Isaac Pearson was a staunch patriot and took an active part in resisting the measures of the Crown, and was chosen a member of the Committee of Safety. After the disastrous Battle of Long Island, the loss of Fort Washington, and the retreat across New Jersey of Washington's wreck of an army, followed by the glittering British host, whose discreet commander issued proclamations offering pardon and protection to all who would come and take the oath of allegiance and threatening confiscation and vengeance for all who refused, came the time which Thomas Paine said, "tried men's souls."

Nearly everyone felt that the end of the war was not far off. Hundreds over the State abandoned the cause of the Colonists. The defenseless Legislature, with the Governor at their head, moved from Princeton to Burlington, and soon adjourned, each member going to his home to look after his own interests. There was hardly a vestige of the lately-constituted government, or hardly any who would say that they owed it allegiance and, until the glorious victory at Trenton, our State was looked upon as conquered. These things are mentioned to illustrate the panic which prevailed among many of the Whigs a few weeks before the Battle of Trenton. The Tories were unusually active. Not many active Tories lived in Nottingham Township, but farther eastward they were more common.

It was during this gloomy period that Isaac Pearson took a course which proved fatal to him. He evidently saw nothing but confiscation and ruin before him, and tradition states that he decided to take the oath of allegiance to the British. His family endeavored to dissuade him from so doing, but he felt it was the best that could be done, and he departed on a fleet mare for New Brunswick. Tradition also states that he had a large sum of money on his person, the proceeds from the sale of his hogs. He started for New Brunswick by way of Allentown and the York Road. Party feelings ran high at this time and the passions of men were deeply stirred. Possibly the assaulting party of Whigs now viewed Isaac Pearson as one particularly odious; as a traitor; as one who had been prominent in the cause and fallen away; as one who had put his hand to the plow and turned back. Tradition differs a little as to where

he was slain. One says it was near Allentown. Another that, being closely pursued by a party of horsemen, he reached Hightstown and, jumping from his horse, ran into a house and out the back door, and was shot dead while running across the lot in the rear. His family always held that he was slain for the purpose of robbery rather than from patriotic motives, and tradition states that years after the war a man from near Allentown, on his deathbed and delirious, was heard to cry out the name of Isaac Pearson, and his talk led those who heard it to believe that he had had some part in the killing.

His body was taken home, but on account of the unsettled state of all kinds of business, no proper person or material could be procured to make a coffin, and one was made of boards taken from his unfinished barn. He was buried in the family burial lot on his farm, which is now a part of the Pearson Memorial Methodist Church cemetery at White Horse.

There was a tendency in later years to speak of Isaac Pearson as a Tory. The facts do not warrant this. During times like the Revolutionary War some people could take a stand and keep it, due to the fact that their insignificance saved them. Others who lived away from the track of armies could hide until the skies grew brighter. Others were mere time-servers, who took no part openly and fawned on either side, as the times demanded. Isaac Pearson was so prominent and well known that whatever he did made news and if he wavered under these most trying circumstances, and if he started to renounce the cause, he never did it, and his intentions were never proven.

Isaac Pearson left two sons—Robert and William. Robert died unmarried. William married a daughter of Sheriff Howe. He lived and died on the old farm and had five sons and three daughters. His son William was a gallant Captain in the United States Navy. His daughter Mary married Thomas Hopkinson, grandson of the signer of the Declaration of Independence, from Bordentown. Mary and her husband lived in the mansion after the death of her father, and after her death the old home passed out of the Pearson family.

This mansion built by Isaac Pearson three years before the Revolutionary War, stands at the foot of Hobson Street, and is owned and occupied by Mr. Carney Rose and his family.

The John Abbott House

The original tract of land owned by John Abbott contained 810 acres, and extended from the Crosswicks Creek to Pond Run. Just when the old house was built is not known, but

it was a substantial dwelling at the time of the Revolutionary War and has an interesting history.

It was in the latter part of the year 1776, and the British were advancing upon Trenton. Samuel Tucker, the State Treasurer, hearing of the British advance, wanted to save the State's money and his own. On November 30, 1776 he took his personal effects and those of the estates of which he was executor, along with the unsigned public money, to the home of John Abbott. The British arrived in Trenton on December 8, 1776, and on that day Mr. Tucker took the signed public money, amounting to more than fifteen hundred pounds, and a thousand pounds he held in trust, and secreted it with other moneys in the Abbott home.

The British were told of the hiding place by a Mrs. Mary Pointing, of Trenton, and she led a detachment of British troops, about five hundred strong, to the house of John Abbott. They raided the house and captured Tucker's black trunk, containing deeds, etc. and the unsigned paper money.

When the British arrived at the house, the family pretended they were getting ready to move, and they had placed the money in the bottom of tubs, and over it placed dishes and broken household utensils of various kinds and carried them to the cellar. The soldiers ransacked the house from top to bottom, found the tubs, but were heard to mutter that they contained nothing but "old trumpery", and did not search them. The soldiers took Tucker's trunk with his papers and the unsigned "shin plasters" but did not get the money.

Several days after this raid Samuel Tucker was returning to his family in Trenton when, near White Horse, he was met by twenty mounted Tories. Their leader, John Leonard,



John Abbott House

pointed a pistol at Tucker's breast and told him he had orders from the British to take him prisoner. Robert Pearson, twin brother of Isaac Pearson, appeared at the scene and gave his parole that Tucker should stay with him until he was wanted by the British.

The home of John Abbott, which the British raided on Monday, the 9th of December 1776, is still standing. It is located on the Kuser Road and is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Tindall, Jr. The house has been added to at both ends, the middle part being the original. The old-time fireplaces show that it is linked to the hoary past.

When John Abbott died his will gave the big farm to Samuel Abbott, son of his brother Timothy Abbott. Samuel Abbott willed it to his daughter Ann, who married John Pancoast. In 1839 her heirs sold 186 acres, including the historic house, to Daniel Ivins, and the last one of his children born in the old house is Robert Manning Ivins who at eighty odd years of age, now makes his home at Fork Union, Virginia. From the Ivins the farm passed to the late John W. Tindall, whose wife was the daughter of Daniel Ivins, and it is still in the possession of the Tindall family.

At the time of the British raid the Abbotts had a guest, Elizabeth Quigley of Trenton. She later married Richard Hunt, and their grandson, Richard Hunt, when he was a young man, said that he often heard his grandmother relate the story of the raid. Elizabeth Hunt lived to be 94 years of age and is buried in the old cemetery at White Horse.

The Abbott-DeCou Mansion

One of the best preserved mansions in the township is the former Peter DeCou residence between Broad Street Park and White Horse. In former years a mile long lane led from Broad Street to the mansion, but now one winds through the streets of DeCou Village until they reach Independence Avenue, from which a lane leads to the house.

This venerable mansion was erected in 1797 by Lacey and Sally Abbott, and the date with their initials is woven into the brick design up near the eaves.

The direct ancestor of Lacey Abbott was John Abbott, who was born at or near Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire, England, about 1663. He came to this country with William Watson in 1678. John Abbott originally settled on the land that was later known as Spring Lake Park. A few years later he purchased land a mile eastward of Watson's plantation. He was a prominent member of the Society of Friends and was one of

the original trustees in charge of the land donated for a meeting house and burial ground in Crosswicks. He is mentioned in the old Nottingham Town Book and was constable in 1691; overseer of the highways in 1694, and surveyor of the highways in 1721. At the time of his death in 1739 his plantation consisted of 810 acres.

To his son Timothy Abbott he willed the south half of his plantation. In due time this land was inherited by Timothy's grandson, Lacey Abbott, and in 1797 the present brick mansion was built. The house is colonial in type with a wide hall running through the center, and with two stately rooms on either side. The stairway with its mahogany railing and delicate spindles reminds one of the Trent House stairway.

The estate passed out of the Abbott family in 1826. Peter DeCou purchased the house and some acreage in 1891, and the old mansion is best remembered as the home of the DeCous. Mrs. DeCou was affectionately known as "Aunt Martha" and was deeply interested in all community affairs. The DeCou School was named in her honor as she had contributed a large plot of ground in the rear of the school for a playground. The DeCou Fire Company is also named in her honor. Mrs. DeCou died in 1934 at the age of 97.

The old mansion was rented for a number of years, and in 1941 it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. J. Norman Welsh, who have repaired and restored it so that today it is the same substantial brick mansion where Lacey Abbott and his wife Sally lived, loved and died so many years ago.



The Abbott-DeCou Homestead—1797

"Bow Hill"

No place in Hamilton Township is more rich in history than the Lalor Estate which has been known for many decades as "Bow Hill."

The once-palatial estate first appeared in print in June of 1784, when the following advertisement appeared in the Trenton Gazette:

"To be sold by the subscriber at public sale on Thursday, the 20th of June next, a valuable farm on which Major William Trent lately lived, situate on the river Delaware, within two miles of Trenton, containing about 700 acres; 350 clear, 100 of which is meadow of the first quality; two orchards of 600 trees of the best grafted fruits; an excellent shad fishery, and an old accustomed ferry (with boats) known by the name of Trenton Lower Ferry; barns, stables, and other outbuildings."

The original mansion on this farm was a huge dwelling and had twenty-four rooms on the ground floor.

This property was purchased by Barnt DeKlyn on the 20th of June, 1784, and thus began the family that occupied it down through the years. Barnt DeKlyn was a descendant of a French Huguenot family and was born in Boston on October



Front of Bow Hill Mansion in the Late 1890's.

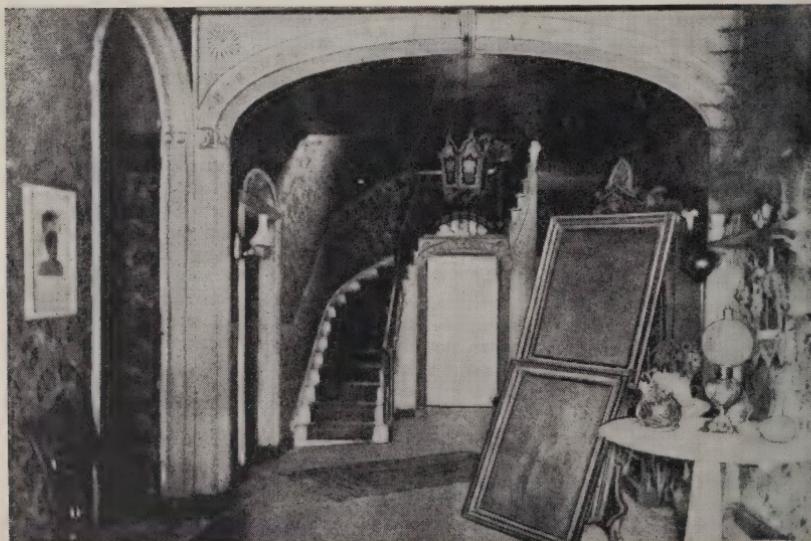
31, 1745. His parents were wealthy and he was well educated. He married Mary Van Zant, a member of an old Knickerbocker family of New York City.

During the Revolutionary War Barnt DeKlyn was engaged in the manufacture of woolen cloth, which he sold largely to the Colonial government for army uniforms. He amassed what was in those days a huge fortune.

Barnt DeKlyn named the property he purchased "Bow Hill" because the contour of the land along the bluff at this point forms a bow. He purchased the property in June 1784, and in November of 1785 the mansion was destroyed by fire. Mr. and Mrs. DeKlyn worshipped at the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton and on this Sunday morning in November of 1784 they returned from church to find the house ablaze and the slaves trying frantically to save some of the furniture. Mr. DeKlyn began to rebuild immediately and the present mansion was finished in 1787. It is built of bricks which were brought from England as ships' ballast.

During the years 1785 to 1790 Trenton was favorably mentioned as the seat of the National capital and DeKlyn added largely to his holdings in the hope of acquiring substantial profits from the expected increase in land values.

In 1790, when it was definitely decided to establish the National capital at Washington, DeKlyn found himself facing a huge loss as a result of his land speculations. However, he



Hallway at "Bow Hill".

managed to weather the storm and in time more than recouped his losses.

Tradition tells us that this gentleman of yesteryear, Barnt DeKlyn lived in all the splendor of a liege lord of the soil. Surely, no English or French nobleman of the period was ever waited on more faithfully by his retinue of footboys, flunkeys and cupbearers than was Barnt DeKlyn by his slaves. Haughty of spirit, yet kind withal, he lived with his wife and daughter in a little monarchy of his own, close by the world of Trenton.

The DeKlyns had only one child, a daughter, Catherine, or Kitty, and she was her father's idol. He lavished upon her every luxury an ample purse and whimsical fancy could procure. A few years before the close of the century, when Kitty was fourteen, she was sent to a select boarding school in New York to complete her education. Kitty was a beautiful red head and her portrait was painted in oil by the famous artist, Thomas Scully.

Kitty DeKlyn was one of the young maidens taking part in the welcome to General George Washington, when he passed through Trenton on his way to be inaugurated as President of the United States.

During her second year at this select school, Kitty became very bored, and tradition tells us that despite the very strict chaperonage, Kitty managed to make the acquaintance of a red-headed Irishman named Jeremiah Lalor. It was love at first sight. Jeremiah was twenty-five; Kitty sixteen. Jeremiah drove all the way from New York to BOW HILL, a long, long journey in those days, to ask Barnt DeKlyn for his daughter's hand in marriage. When Mr. DeKlyn learned that young Lalor was a penniless Irishman he ordered him from the house. Lalor, who was six feet two, drew himself to his full height, and snapped back at DeKlyn: "Sir, my ancestors were kings in Ireland when yours were peasants in France!"

Jeremiah Lalor went back to New York and reported to Kitty. After a few subsequent meetings at the Battery and on lower Broadway, Kitty consented to elope and, aided by a ladder, one dark night she climbed the garden wall, met her lover, and hurried off with him in the darkness to arouse some good parson to make them man and wife.

A terrific storm raged around BOW HILL when word reached Mr. DeKlyn some days later that Kitty had eloped. For a year he never spoke her name and would not open her letters.

Kitty and Jeremiah Lalor had six children. The first was a boy and Kitty named him Barnt DeKlyn Lalor. It was at

this time that father DeKlyn's heart melted and he took Kitty back into the family. However, Jeremiah Lalor never entered Bow Hill mansion. When Barnt DeKlyn ordered him from the house, he swore that he would never again cross the threshhold, and he never did. He would bring Kitty and the children to Bow Hill, but would not enter the house. In the eighth year of their marriage Jeremiah Lalor died at the age of thirty-two.

Kitty was still a young woman and for her second husband she married General John Beatty, a physician and officer in the Revolutionary War and, subsequently, a member of the Continental Congress and of the Federal Congress. He was Speaker of the Assembly of New Jersey, and Secretary of State of New Jersey. From 1815 to the time of his death he was president of the Trenton Banking Company and a trustee of the College of New Jersey.

During her marriage to Jeremiah Lalor, Kitty lived in Spotswood, where DeKlyn had woolen mills and which Lalor managed for him. After her marriage to John Beatty, Kitty lived on what is now Lalor Street in Trenton, in a large mansion that stood where a roller skating rink is now located.

One of the six children of Jeremiah and Kitty Lalor was named Jeremiah. Barnt DeKlyn died at Bow Hill on September



Mantelpiece in "Bow Hill" parlor.

1, 1824, aged 79 years. Both he and Mrs. DeKlyn are buried in the First Presbyterian Church cemetery, Trenton. When his will was read, it was discovered that he had left Bow Hill and a considerable sum of money to his grandson, Jeremiah Lalor. This Jeremiah Lalor married Elizabeth Tilton Smith, daughter of John Smith, of Hightstown, and they took up their residence at Bow Hill in 1829. They had ten children: John Beatty Lalor (named for Kitty DeKlyn's second husband), Julia, Mary, Elizabeth, Caroline, DeKlyn (who was killed at the Battle of Williamsburg, Va., in the Civil War), Kate, William S., Frank, and Howard. William S. Lalor was a physician and very prominent in Trenton.

Julia married Andrew Barricklo, of Jersey City. After the death of Miss Caroline Lalor in 1908, the property was willed to Mrs. Barricklo. Upon her death, her son William Barricklo inherited it. William Barricklo was married in the beautiful wide hall of Bow Hill mansion, but never made his home there. His wife died shortly after their marriage, and it is said that he visited Bow Hill only once a year on the anniversary of their wedding. At the death of William Barricklo, the property was inherited by his two sisters, Miss Catherine Barricklo and Mrs. Julia Fouche. At their deaths the entire property was inherited by Miss Julie Fouche. The Hamilton Township Historical Society purchased the Bow Hill mansion and five acres of land from Miss Fouche. After her death in 1949, the balance of the acreage making up the Lalor Tract was offered for sale. The original estate comprised over 800 acres, but parcels had been sold at various times down through the years, and the balance remaining in the estate at the time of Miss Fouche's death was about 200 acres. This has been sold to a land developer and the entire Lalor Estate, with the exception of the five acres surrounding the mansion, is covered with modern homes.

Unable to obtain the necessary funds for the restoration of the old mansion, the Hamilton Township Historical Society sold the Bow Hill property to Messrs. Simon Rednor and Joseph Rainear.

The streets in the Lalor Tract were named for members of the family: Lalor Street from the first member by that name; Jeremiah from the second Jeremiah Lalor; DeKlyn Avenue (now in the City of Trenton) from the progenitor of this family; and the other names of Caroline, Julia, Elizabeth from the names of the children.

Much has been written about the beauty of Bow Hill in bygone days. While it was the home of the DeKlyns and Lalors for over a hundred years, it is probably best known

because of its association with Joseph Bonaparte, so I am going to tell you the story of the greatest romance in the annals of the old house—the love of a King for a poor little Quaker maid.

Joseph Bonaparte was the oldest brother of Napoleon Bonaparte, one-time Emperor of France. When Napoleon was at the peak of his power, he made his brother Joseph King of Naples and of Spain. After Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo, Joseph Bonaparte fled to America. He first went to Philadelphia and in 1816 to Bordentown. He purchased from the Sayre family the tract of land which he called Point Breeze, and which for many years has been known as Bonaparte Park. In 1820 Joseph Bonaparte induced his friend, Barnt DeKlyn, to rent Bow Hill to him for a retreat for the fair Annette Savage. Many tales have been told of this American wife of King Joseph. Annette and her mother are said to have kept a small drygoods shop in Philadelphia. It is traditional gossip that the brother of Napoleon fell in love with the dark-eyed maiden as she sold him a pair of suspenders over the counter. For a time he lived with her in Philadelphia. The blueblooded aristocrats of the Quaker City looked upon the alliance with horror and the little Quakeress was made to feel the cruel stings which spring from virtuous indignation. It is said that Joseph Bonaparte and Annette Savage went through a marriage ceremony, but knowing that Bonaparte's wife was still living in France, the good citizens of Philadelphia did not recognize the marriage. The former King, who was very fond of society, looked in vain for his friends. When he gave parties, more than half the invited guests sent regrets. Finally becoming enraged at what he termed "insults", Bonaparte decided to come back to New Jersey. The mansion at Bonaparte Park was undergoing repairs and wishing to secure a retreat that was both beautiful and secluded, he persuaded DeKlyn to rent Bow Hill. As the DeKlyns were going to spend a year in New York, they consented to rent the mansion.

Little is known of Annette Savage's life at Bow Hill. The descendants of Barnt DeKlyn did not like to talk about this alliance, and it is said that the second Jeremiah Lalor would not allow the names of Bonaparte and Annette to be mentioned in conversation.

There is a little connecting door between the rooms occupied by Annette and Bonaparte, which was put there by Bonaparte, and which is always shown to interested visitors. Whereas the other doors in the mansion are high and wide, this is a low, narrow door for one person to go through. Joseph Bonaparte, like his brother Napoleon, was little of stature. On one of the windows facing the river is the sentence "God is Love",

scratched by a diamond and, according to tradition, it was done by Annette Savage.

Even today Bow Hill is secluded. Then there were no houses between it and Trenton proper. Very often the little Quakeress must have longed for her former home, when she heard of the parties a few miles distant to which she was never invited.

Joseph Bonaparte and Annette Savage had two children, both girls. The first child was killed when a flower pot fell from a window sill and struck its little head. This child was named Pauline after Bonaparte's sister, and she is buried in St. Michael's Cemetery on North Warren Street, Trenton. An entry of the burial in the Parish Register under date of December 7, 1823, reads:

Pauline Josephann, infant child of Joseph Bonaparte and Mrs. Holton (Annette Savage).

Above the grave close to the north wall of the church is a monument enclosed by an iron fence, and surmounted by a dove. On the front of the shaft is this inscription, now somewhat weather worn:

Erected
By a Bereft Mother
to the Memory
of a Beloved Child
Pauline Josephann Holton
who departed this life
Dec. 6 1823
Aged 4 years

Below this inscription are carved the following pathetic lines:

Oh, fate severe! Is then my Pauline dead:
From earth to heaven her angel spirit fled—
My sweet Pauline! that lovely bud
Twas never to expand—
Received a mandate from above
And fled at His command.

On the opposite panel:

Pauline, your rest is now secure;
A loving Saviour called thee hence,
Knowing thy gentleness could ill endure
The world's unbelieving malevolence.

The other daughter, Charlotte, grew to be a beautiful girl and, in after years, when Napoleon III came to the throne of France, he legalized the union of his Uncle Joseph and Annette Savage, and presented their daughter Charlotte at Court as his cousin. Annette, however, was never taken to France.

A beautiful picture Annette and her child must have made as they trod the rustic walks leading in all directions from the house. Jacob, Bonaparte's bodyguard, was their devoted attendant, and it is said that he was a striking figure in his gay uniform. With his help, Annette Savage planted the daffodils which, even today, cover the garden and slopes down to the water. In the spring of 1822 Bonaparte and Annette left Bow Hill.

After the death of Miss Caroline Lalor, Bow Hill stood vacant for almost fifty years. In 1900 a visitor wrote the following description:

Two miles out of Trenton, on the Lalor Road, one comes to DeKlyn Lane, a good half mile long, leading to Bow Hill. Mounting a little rise of land to the low white gate guarding it, and once inside the gate and in the lane itself, the outside world is forgotten. Straight ahead in the distance the red brick house stands like some 18th century picture shut away in a forgotten world. The wanderer in the lane, approaching the house, will never forget the picture, especially if the season is springtime. Hoary-headed pines and acres of golden daffodils surround it. Robins and blue birds twitter a welcome, the Delaware murmurs in the distance, and the wind sighs among the pussy willows. The daffodils bend and sway like "Wordsworth's merry crowd" and, as one comes nearer, the sad face of the old house seems to say, "Come and rest a while and I will tell you the stories that lie buried in the hushed chambers of my heart."

Bow Hill seems to remember Joseph Bonaparte and Annette Savage and, before that, the gay dancing feet of Kitty DeKlyn. Elegant souvenirs of the Empire period linger in the old drawing rooms. Even the aged striped curtains at some of the windows tell of the classical designs of that period. Kitty DeKlyn is remembered only by her descendants; Annette Savage is forgotten by the world, but Bow Hill still whispers what is known of her story.

Standing before it in the twilight and saying good-bye, it looks like some aged grieving mother longing for the children who have left her. One almost hates to leave it alone in the gloomy night, as he hurries down DeKlyn Lane, out of which little Annette Savage rode so many years ago.

"Burholme"

The lovely old mansion known today as "Burholme" has borne several names since it was first erected on the Hamilton Square-Yardville Road, about a mile north from Yardville.

The exact date of its erection is not known, but it is presumed that it was built in the late 1700's. The property came into the

possession of the Allinson family in 1812, when it was purchased by William Allinson. Because numerous bears roamed through the woods and over the fields of the estate, it was first called "Bear Meade."

In 1830 Samuel Allinson inherited the estate and it remained in the Allinson family until 1945. Samuel Allinson's son, Josiah T. Allinson, was a prominent citizen of the township. He served as an Assemblyman from Mercer County from 1916 to 1918, and was one of the founders and first President of the Yardville National Bank. Mr. Allinson lived on this beautiful estate with his sisters, the Misses Rachel and Caroline Allinson, and their gracious hospitality was known throughout the county.

The original house was added to by the Allinsons and today it contains seventeen rooms. According to tradition this house, during the Civil War period, was a station on the Underground Railway, and it is said that slaves were hidden in the two rooms in the second attic until they could be safely taken to the next station.

This lovely old home, with its beautiful gardens, is one of the show places of the township. On either side of the long lane there were, in the early days, many locust trees, and the Allinsons called their home "Locust Hill." Wind storms through the years wrought havoc with these trees and not many locusts remain, but there are still hundreds of magnificent trees on the property. In the gardens surrounding the house are many exotic shrubs and trees from many parts of the



"Burholme" the former Allinson homestead.

world. The gardens were the pride and joy of Miss Caroline Allinson, the last of the Allinsons to reside there. She was particularly proud of the ginkgo tree which a friend had sent her from China many years ago. Across the driveway from the spacious veranda are two giant pine trees reaching high into the sky. They are entwined with wisteria vines and in the springtime the trees are two huge bouquets of purple blossoms, a sight one long remembers.

Our first inhabitants, the Leni-Lenape Indians, found this property a bountiful place in which to dwell. Along the banks of the stream which flows through the farm and in the fields many Indian implements have been found, and Miss Caroline had one of the finest collection of Indian relics in the county.

In 1945 this estate was purchased from Miss Caroline Allinson by Mr. and Mrs. Amos M. Waln, who named their new home "Burholme" after the ancestral home of the Walns in England. The Walns have greatly improved the old mansion, adding to its beauty but in no way spoiling the original contour of the house. A sunken rose garden and an herb garden add greatly to the beauty of the already beautiful home built so many years ago.

The Middleton House

As one rides through North Crosswicks on the way to the bridge over the Assunpink Creek, there will be seen on the left side of the road, a spacious old-time mansion, with big dormer windows. This mansion was erected in 1836 by Enoch Middleton and is, today, one of the most substantial residences in the township.

This old mansion was once a station of the Underground Railway and its builder, Enoch Middleton, was the "agent."

Mr. Middleton was a prominent and well-to-do citizen, a staunch Quaker, and a bitter opponent of slavery. Many people in the North looked upon slavery with horror. The Quakers early declared against it, and lots of worthy citizens who would never knowingly disobey any other law, did not hesitate to assist runaway slaves. In time, regular routes were secretly established to assist the slaves after they had crossed the State line, and substantial and fearless men, who owned roomy houses or buildings where the negroes could be secreted, were selected at convenient distances along the routes. Their places were known as "stations", and the opponents of this practice and the pro-slavery men called it the "Underground Railroad." The slaves were kept out of sight during the day, but at night word would be sent to those willing to assist, and after most persons had retired for the night covered wagons would appear at the stations, load up

the negroes, and take them ten or fifteen miles to the next station. Friends of this practice well knew what was going on when they heard the rattling of the heavy wagons over the road at the dead hour of night, and those not in the know would wonder where Mr. So-and-so had been when he was seen coming home at an early morning hour.

The working of the underground was attended with considerable danger, and more so after the Fugitive Slave Law was passed, and the agents and helpers had to be men of grit.

Enoch Middleton was a man of grit and courage. He was quiet, but firm, and there were times when he had to bluff the officers of the law. At times he had so many runaway slaves at his place that it was difficult to hide them during the day, but so secretly was the work done that a "negro head" was never seen about the premises, and few pro-slavery men ever suspected that Friend Middleton was engaged in this work. A few years before his death this venerable old gentleman admitted his activities in connection with the runaway slaves and said he could freely tell then what it would have been dangerous to admit twenty or thirty years before. At times he had as many as 30 runaway slaves hidden about his buildings. When only a few came, they would be kept until enough arrived to make up a load, and then, in the night, Mr. Middleton and his friends would take them to Cranbury, which was the next station on the road to Canada.

The traffic in runaway slaves over the "Underground Railroad" was heavy, and Congressmen from the South complained



The Middleton House.

that 100,000 slaves had been spirited away from them by this system. The route on this side of the Delaware was across the river to Salem and then northward to Burlington, Crosswicks, Cranbury and on to Canada.

This fine old home has always remained in the family and, today, is occupied by Mr. Middleton's great grandson, Alfred M. Newbold and his family.

The Hutchinson Mansion at Phillip's Ford

Today, if one crosses the high bridge over the Pennsylvania Railroad mainline into Cornell Heights, and then continues on what is known as Princeton Avenue, he will see a house that once was one of the finest old-time brick mansions in the township or county. It bears little resemblance to the original mansion now, but one can still visualize its former grandeur.

The farm on which this homestead was erected was known as Hillside Farm. The house was built a few yards from the bridge over the historic Assanpink, on a little knoll.

Those who are familiar with the details of local Revolutionary War history know that the day and evening before the Battle of Princeton, part of the American troops were stationed along the south bank of the Assanpink to prevent the British from crossing and getting in the rear. General Mercer's troops were at Phillip's Ford, and below them at Henry's Mill (now Whitehead's) were General Cadwallader's men.

The name Phillip's Ford was popular in Revolutionary days, but has long been forgotten. The crossing at Hillside Farm was once known by that name.

To Hillside Farm, about the time of the War of 1812, came Elijah Hutchinson, oldest son of Amos and Phebe Hutchinson, and grandson of Jonathan and Elizabeth Hutchinson, who were among the first settlers of West Windsor Township. All of the Hutchinsons came from England, where they were very prominent. An English Hutchinson coat-of-arms bore the motto: "Let him bear the cross bravely."

Elijah Hutchinson was born June 30, 1780, and on January 12, 1809 was married to Ann Maria Anderson, daughter of George Anderson, whose residence was the old homestead on Greenwood Avenue. This old home was located on the north side of Greenwood Avenue between what is now known as Woodlawn and Connecticut Avenues, and was torn down some years ago. George Anderson was one of the most patriotic and prominent men in the county. He commanded a company in the Revolution and later was a member of the Legislature for twenty years. He died in 1839, aged 88 years, 7 months, and 2 days, and was buried at Nottingham Square.

After Elijah Hutchinson purchased Hillside Farm, he proceeded to build the brick mansion. In the meadow at the left of the road he made the brick he needed, and selected for the site of his home the elevation a few yards south of the ford or bridge over the Assanpink.

The farm and the old mansion were in the possession of the Hutchinson family for many years, finally becoming the property of former Congressman Elijah C. Hutchinson, whose grandfather was a brother of the builder. It has now passed out of the possession of the Hutchinson family.

There are always incidents connected with the history of old homesteads, and this one may be of interest. One night Mr. Hutchinson heard a noise outside and looking out of his bedroom window, he saw the outside cellar door open and a man standing there. He hurried down stairs and out the front door and the man ran off. But the one in the cellar, not knowing this, passed up a ham and other salted meats, which Mr. Hutchinson took and laid aside. He then passed up a lot of other stuff, finally saying, "There, I guess that's enough for us," and came up the steps. Imagine his confusion and chagrin when he stood face to face with the owner, who recognized him as a neighbor. He begged and pleaded not to be exposed, and Mr. Hutchinson agreed to spare him the shame. Long years after Mr. Hutchinson would tell of the incident but the secret



The Hutchinson Homestead at Phillip's Ford.

of the identity of these men died with him, and not even his family ever knew who these "good neighbors" were.

Elijah Hutchinson was a brickmaker and made the bricks to build "East College" at Princeton. His old home was noted for the warm-hearted, open-handed hospitality dispensed there through the changing years.

Quaker Bridge Farm

As one approaches the bridge over the Assanpink Creek at Quaker Bridge, he will see to the left of the road a monument with this inscription:

"Quaker Bridge"

Here Washington and his Army
crossed the Assanpink when making
the secret night movement that
resulted in the victory at Princeton

January 3, 1777.

Erected by Eureka Council, No. 54
Jr. O.U.A.M., A.D. 1902

The road that leads from Stony Brook to Crosswicks and which crosses the Assanpink at this spot was made by the Quakers and, no doubt, it was used by them sixty years or



Monument at Quaker Bridge.

more before the Revolution. Undoubtedly the Quakers built the first bridge at their own expense, or it would not have been so named. From here a road led to Sandtown, and there was a shorter cut to Trenton, which left Sandtown some distance to the east, and in Revolutionary times this was called the "lower road to Princeton" and was far enough away from the other road through Lawrenceville to enable Washington to slip from the British at Trenton in the darkness and beat them to Princeton.

This section, known as Quaker Bridge, was settled some time before the Revolution. The section north of the creek, east of the Province Line, had been owned by the heirs of William Penn, who sold much of it to the descendants of the Hollanders who came from other parts of the State. South of the creek, east of the Province Line, the land speculators sold farms to the descendants of the English. South of Quaker Bridge was the big tract of shrub oaks known as The Barrens, and to the west and southwest was the immense and gloomy Bear Swamp.

There was a tavern at Quaker Bridge long before the Revolution and, according to tradition, Patrick Lamb, who was one of Washington's guides on the march to Princeton, lived there in 1776 and may have been the keeper of the tavern. Since 1779 the owners are shown in the records.

William Coleman was the owner in 1779 and kept the tavern. His sign showed the figure of a hunter standing by three dead deer, it being claimed that he had once killed three deer with one shot. The sign was used by his successor and when the tavern was discontinued, the sign was later used as a fire board in the upper room of the house. The tavern property at that time consisted of a house, one and a half stories high, with stable and shed, and six acres of land. In 1780 Mr. Coleman sold the place to Wilson Appleton for 150 pounds. On March 1, 1790 Appleton sold it to John Voorhies for 190 pounds. Mr. Voorhies' daughter Catherine married Christopher Vannest, who became possessed of the old property in 1801. The Vannest family owned the property for over 100 years.

Some years ago the entire property was taken over by the State of New Jersey as a game and bird sanctuary. The old house was partly torn down and remodeled and, today, bears no resemblance to the old tavern that stood there when General Washington and his army marched by in the early dawn of January 3, 1777.

"Grafton"

Once the home of the first Sheriff of Mercer County

"Grafton" was the name given to the plantation and mansion on the road between Yardville and Newtown (Robbinsville), now known as Route 130. This fine old plantation was for more than fifty years the home of the late Samuel P. Nicholson. Mr. Nicholson made extensive additions to the house, built the large barns, adorned the grounds, fitted the approaches with self-acting gates, and made it an ideal country seat.

Away back in the misty past this farm, then consisting of 166 acres, was the property of Mahew West. He was a great grandson of Bartholomew West, one of the first settlers of Shrewsbury. Mahew West, in 1784, married Margaret Rossell, and died in 1811 without issue.

In 1812 his brother William and thirteen other heirs sold the farm to Hugh M. Weed and Frederick Williams, taking a large mortgage in payment. Weed and Williams could not make a success of farming, and in 1823 the place was sold by Sheriff Earl of Burlington County to Caleb Ivens, Sr. Mr. Ivens held it for nine years and sold it to John L. McKnight.

About the year 1820 the Bordentown and Amboy Turnpike Company owned the present road, and at that time McKnight bought additional land. In 1837 McKnight sold the farm to Richard Jacques and Samuel R. Jacques, brothers. In 1839 Samuel R. Jacques sold his share to Richard, and in the same year Richard bought more acreage from John W. Pierson, making the farm consist of 189 acres.

Richard Jacques was the first Sheriff of Mercer County. When the county was formed Martin Van Buren was President of the United States and William Pennington was Governor of New Jersey. Van Buren was not altogether popular, and the Whigs were hurling the epithet "Loco Focos" at the Democrats, and they retorted with the epithet "Silk Stockings." The Whigs looked about for a strong man to put up for Sheriff. Richard Jacques seemed to be the man. He was of Nottingham Township; he was inspector of steamboats, was engaged in boat building at Yardville with his brother Samuel, and was joint owner with him of Laurie's Mills. The Whig Convention was held at Clarksville in the old brick hotel. The date was September 24, 1838. The following ticket was chosen: Sheriff, Richard Jacques; Council, Charles G. McChesney; Assembly, Robert C. Hutchinson and Josiah S. Worth; Coroners, James Davison, Abraham Skirm and Joseph B. Scudder. The office of council was similar to that of the present office of Senator. The Whigs made a spirited canvass; public meetings were held at Princessville, Trenton and other places. The election,

which was always held for two days at that period, took place on October 9 and 10, 1838. The Democratic majority in Nottingham was reduced to 5, and the total vote stood: Jacques 1,381, and his opponent, Smith, 1,344, a close victory for Jacques. The Whigs were jubilant and the Party in Trenton claimed that 17 persons who in 1799 voted the first Democratic ticket ever used in Trenton, had voted the Whig ticket at this election, having returned to the Whig fold.

Richard Jacques served his term as Sheriff, and died in 1842 in the southwest room on the first floor of the old mansion.

Enoch Knowles, a neighbor, was appointed administrator of Jacques' estate, and in 1843 he sold the farm to Charles Hinkle. Mr. Hinkle sold it the same year to William H. Gatzmer, a prominent official of the Camden and Amboy Railroad. The railroad crossing nearest the farm was given the name of Gatzmer's Lane, and for years there was a small station there. In 1851 Gatzmer sold the farm to Lindsay Nicholson, of Philadelphia. Mr. Nicholson placed his son, Samuel P. Nicholson on the estate, and in 1866 deeded it to his son, the deed calling for 193½ acres. Mr. Nicholson was of the orthodox Society of Friends, an upright, public-spirited man, and endeared himself to the people in many ways, but he was not successful as a farmer, and in 1879 the farm was sold by Sheriff Joseph S. Mount to William P. Chatten, and Mr. Chatten conveyed it in a deed of trust to the wife of Mr. Nicholson.

In 1902 the entire farm was sold by Sheriff Atchley to John P. Wetherill, making the third time the old farm had been in the hands of the Sheriff. In 1904 it was purchased by the late Joseph Y. Dilatush. His son, Robert, inherited the farm and lived there for a number of years. Mr. Dilatush then sold it, and the old plantation once known as "Grafton" is now occupied by Stephen Sadley.

The Eldridge Plantation

In years gone by, there stood a large farm house about a half mile northeast of Hamilton Square. In this farm house, called a mansion in the old days, was reared a family of thirteen persons, most of whom, in turn, also became prolific, and many residents of the township and elsewhere may look upon this home as the parent hive of a numerous and prominent family.

The Eldridge family were among the early settlers of New Jersey. One John Eldridge was an associate of William Penn. One Jonathan Eldridge was an early settler of this county. Prior to the Revolution one Abram Eldridge bought a tract of land nearly a mile square, extending northeasterly from Nottingham Square. It is said that the price paid was about

seven dollars an acre. Obadiah Eldridge, a brother, owned land eastward of this tract. Abram Eldridge built his homestead house in the center of the farm which later became known as the James C. Robbins farm. This house was torn down many years ago. Mr. Eldridge lived on his farm in peace and plenty. He was prominent in church work and in 1785 donated the original plot of ground held by the Baptists in Nottingham Square, on which in the same year they built their first church.

About the year 1789, when in the prime of life, Mr. Eldridge met death in a singular manner. Working in the fields one day he became very thirsty and no water being near, he broke a small twig from a cedar tree and began chewing it to allay his thirst. The twig slipped down and lodged in his windpipe, producing an abscess that caused his death in a few days. He was buried in the Baptist churchyard that he had so recently given for that purpose, and was the first person buried there, though no tombstone marks his grave.

Abram Eldridge's children were John, Obadiah, Martha and Wilson. John, Obadiah and Wilson inherited part of the old plantation, but Wilson was the only one who long retained any of his land. The part containing the original house eventually became the property of Joel Taylor, Sr., Benjamin Taylor and Israel Taylor. The Taylors were brothers and eventually they owned about three-fourths of the Eldridge tract.

Wilson Eldridge was still in the cradle when his father died. His mother married Benjamin South, of White Horse, and when Wilson became of age he inherited the part of the homestead that he always considered to be the poorest part of his father's possessions. His brothers, who had sold their holdings, told him to sell the "old swamps" and get out, but Wilson held on, built the house above referred to, and became the father of thirteen children. When he died in 1870 he was worth \$85,000.

Wilson Eldridge married Lydia Douglas, daughter of Robert Douglas of Lambertton. She was the niece of Captain Alexander Douglas, at whose house on Broad Street in Trenton the council of war was held the night before the Battle of Princeton, and the Douglas family, with their relatives, the Pearsons, Reeds, Hunts, and others, were among the leaders in the old Colonial days.

The thirteen children of Wilson and Lydia Eldridge were: George, Alexander, Abram, Mary, Robert, Wilson, Lydia Ann, John, William, Samuel, Elizabeth, Emma and Adeline.

George Eldridge became a resident of New Brunswick and married there. Alexander lived all his long life on or near the old homestead. Abram located in Hightstown. Mary was twice married. Robert located in Baltimore, and became quite wealthy. Wilson also located in Baltimore, but he was one of the adventurers who rushed to California in the early days of that State. Lydia Ann married Clayton Coward of Hightstown. John Eldridge was a farmer and always lived in the township. He had twelve children. Samuel became a farmer and always lived near the place of his birth, and a large portion of the old Eldridge plantation finally became his property. Emma died when a young woman. Elizabeth married James Allen, and the youngest child, Adaline, became the wife of Lewis Darling, of Baltimore.

The boundaries of the original Eldridge plantation would take in about one-fourth of the village of Hamilton Square. It included all the land from the rubber mill to Whittaker's Corner on the east side of the road; the farms of Samuel Eldridge, James C. Robbins and Anna Anderson, almost to the Province Line. Also most of the Allison Nutt farm, and a small portion of the V. N. Cubberly farm. The plantation contained about 600 acres.

This plantation, today, for the most part, is covered with modern homes. The development known as "Square Acres" takes up most of the Samuel Eldridge farm; while much of the James C. Robbins farm is still intact, lots have been sold from the frontage on Nottingham Way, and the balance is owned by J. R. Kelley; the Anderson farm is now a development called "Green Village", and the portion of the original plantation, bought by the Taylor brothers, is partly taken up by the "Score Acres" development. The Allison Nutt farm was sold a number of years ago and is now entirely covered with fine homes. The V. N. Cubberley farm was sold in its entirety many years ago to John W. Tindall. After Mr. Tindall's death it, too, was sold off in parcels, and many fine homes have been erected thereon, and the development "Hamilton Square Park", is located on a part of the old Cubberley farm.

The Appleton Homestead

In the year 1772 there was erected, half a mile east of Mercerville, a fine old mansion. It was the homestead of the once numerous Appleton family.

Cornelius Appleton, who was born in 1701, died 1779, was the builder of this old farm house. He married Mary Cox, who was born in 1697, died 1784. They were married November 10, 1726 and settled on this farm, building the old mansion in

1772. They attended the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton and are buried in the cemetery of that church.

The children of Cornelius and Mary Appleton were Joseph, Richard and Josiah. Joseph was born in 1727, Richard in 1728, and Josiah in 1735. Richard Appleton married Martha Ford in 1756, and their children were: John, William, Richard, Abel, James, Thomas, Cornelius, Daniel, Hannah, Phebe, Margaret, and Judith.

Josiah Appleton, the third son, was three times married, his first wife being Rebekah Gilbert, the second Elizabeth Rogers, and lastly Mary Reed. One of his daughters, late in life, married Captain Alexander Douglas, of Trenton. His son, Josiah, married Anna Yard, daughter of George Yard, and granddaughter of Benjamin Yard, of Trenton. At the death of Josiah in 1852 the old homestead passed out of the Appleton family.

The original farm and homestead was located between Sandtown and Nottingham Square and included what were later known as the farms of Albert Hooper, George Morris, William Cady and John Vanness. The house faced the old road, which disappeared for many years, and is known now as Route 33. It was located where Deerwood Avenue runs into Route 33, and was torn down when the cutoff between Mercerville and Hamilton Square was built.

There is an interesting tale connected with this old homestead. A cooperage was located on the Appleton farm, and just before the War of the Revolution a boy named John Clutch came there to learn the cooper's trade. He was born May 3, 1758 near this place. His father died when he was a child and in 1769 his mother, Sarah Clutch, married Robert Hutchinson.

In May 1776 Captain John Quicksall, of this township, raised a company of troops and young Clutch, being just 18 years of age, enlisted and was sent to Little Egg Harbor, and later to Perth Amboy. Just before the Battle of Trenton, John Clutch served under Captain Robert Quigley, and later under Captain George Anderson, both of this township, being on duty in Pennsylvania, Elizabethtown and Princeton. Later he served under Captain Quigley at Bordentown, Burlington and Haddonfield. In 1778 he fought at Monmouth under Captain Quigley, and in 1780 he served under Captain Langston Carlisle, of Trenton, at Springfield and Steel Gap. He again served under Captain Anderson at Middlebush and Middlebrook in Somerset County.

This young soldier was one of the comparatively few of the Revolutionary soldiers who lived long enough to draw a government pension. It was not until 1832 that the government

provided for such, and he applied for and received it. After the war, John Clutch was married and lived about forty years in Allentown, then in West Windsor Township, and then came back to his native township and ended his days within a mile of where he was born ninety-one years earlier. He died at the residence of his son-in-law, William C. Sinclair, on the farm adjoining the Appleton homestead on the west.

It is believed that John Clutch was the last survivor of the Revolutionary War in this county. He died in 1849 and was buried by the side of his wife at Allentown.

The Mount Homestead

Sharps Avenue begins at Nottingham Way, Hamilton Square, and runs north to the Edinburg Road. Almost at the intersection of Sharps Avenue and the Edinburg Road, one will see today the Schwab Poultry Farm.

Had one traveled that same road more than 175 years ago, he would have seen a large farm house in almost the same location as the present dwelling. This was the Mount homestead, erected some years prior to the Revolutionary War.

Richard Mount was the first of that name to own this land. The exact date that he purchased this land is not known, but in an old paper, executed in 1797, whereby Mary Mount, one of the daughters of Richard Mount, conveyed to Matthias Mount, a son of Richard, her undivided twelfth part of the plantation for fifty pounds in gold or silver, we find the metes and bounds of the original tract, and by it we judge that it was valued at about \$3,000, whch shows that it was a valuable property in the 21st year of American independence, when farm land was very cheap. The original tract contained 247 acres.

Tradition states that Richard Mount and his son, Matthias, were both in the War of the Revolution, both enlisting as soldiers. The records of the Adjutant General's office show that Richard Mount and Matthias Mount enlisted from Middlesex County. The original Middlesex County line was then only a short distance east of the Mount farm.

Richard Mount had two sons and eight daughters. The son, Matthias, married Elizabeth Chambers. The original farm house was destroyed by fire in 1797, and Matthias built a new house on the old foundation. This house weathered the storms of almost one hundred and fifty years, and was also destroyed by fire a few years ago. The present dwelling was erected by Mr. Schwab, who purchased it in 1910.

Matthias Mount had nine children: Richard, Robert, Rebecca, Samuel, John, David, Matthias, Elijah and Mary. All married and had large families. The son Elijah married Mrs. Sarah

Vanness, and they had eight children, among them being Joseph Mount, who was Sheriff of Mercer County, and Edward P. Mount, who was County Collector.

In 1837 the elder Matthias Mount died and was buried in the Presbyterian graveyard at Hamilton Square. He was a prominent member of that church and one of the most influential residents of the township.

All of the old homestead, excepting that part north of Miry Run, was willed to his son, Matthias. This man was one of the popular men of his day, kind and generous to a fault. His door was never locked and no one ever asked a reasonable favor in vain. He died in the old house, where he was born, in 1870. The farm was then sold at public sale, and his son Jasper got the old house and the land south of the road, and his son Enoch got the part north of the road. Jasper died in 1902 in the old home where his father and grandfather had died before him. He was a veteran of the Civil War, and he inherited the generous disposition of his father.

The farm remained in his family until 1910, when it was sold to the present owner.

CHAPTER V

THE NOTTINGHAM TOWN BOOK

The only records in existence recording the business of Nottingham Township are contained in the Nottingham Town Book. This book was in the possession of the late Theodore Cubberley, of Robbinsville, his father and grandfather, for more than a hundred years. There are only twelve pages in the old book, and if any records were kept before 1692, they have been lost. Extensive search never uncovered any more pages.

The records in the old book were probably made by Mahlon Stacy and are neatly written, but difficult to read, save by one familiar with old-time chirography.

First Extract:

"1692. At a towne meeting holden at the house of William Blauth, for the township of Nottingham, the seventh day of the twelfth month, Anno 1692.

"Whereas, complaint hath been made by the constable of Nottingham, that by reason of the neglect of some and the backwardness of others, the said constable is exposed to great trouble, and charge, and expense of time, and at last a disappointment and hindrance of business. Therefore, we, whose names are hereunto subscribed, being sensible of the same, and to prevent the like trouble, charge and disappointment for the time to come, do agree by mutual consent, that who-soever shall for the time to come absent themselves after timely notice given by the said constable, shall be fined at the Discretion of the said Towne Meeting, excepting the absenting person or persons shall give such sufficient reasons as shall seem valid to the said Towne Meeting.

William Watson
Thomas Tindall
Thomas Gilberthorp
Samuel Overton
Robert Pearson
Robert Murfin
William Hixson
Hugh Hutchin
James Pharo
Isaac Watson
John Abbot
Mahlon Stacey
Thomas Lambert
Anthony Woodward

William Quicksall
John Lambert
John Wilford, Senior
Joshua Ely
John Rogers
William Emley
Benjamin Maxie

Signed by me,

MAHLON STACEY, Comiss'."

"1693—The 21st Day of the Seaventh month.

Agreed then by the respective persons, whose names are above written, that Thomas Gilberthorp and Thomas Tindall, shall personally or otherwise by their Deputys, give lawful Notice to the Respective Inhabitants of the Township of Nottingham, cum membris, when Publique and Necessary occasions shall require."

(All of the records on page one relate to the difficulty they experienced in collecting the taxes in those far-off days.)

Second Extract:

1694, 2d Mon. 16 day. Robert Pearson, Chosen Constable, and received then in cash of the Towne money 19 shillings and 1 penny.

1694, 5 Mon. 25 day. Att. a Towne Meeting holden then at the house of Mahlon Stacey, by the Inhabitants of the said Township of Nottingham, cum membris; William Hixson, of the same, was Chosen Constable for the following year. And the said Inhabitants at the same meeting holden the day and yeare above said, in the place aforesaid for the Defraying and Paying the necessary expenses and Charges of the Constable, in the executing of his office, Do unanimously consent and agree, And it is hereby Consented and Agreed unto, That all and every freeholder, within the said Township aforesd, shall pay four pence for each and every hundred Acres of land, which he holdeth, in Actual Possession, within the said Township.

Which said tax, of four pence per hundred acres, shall be collected and gathered in, on this side, and before the Fifth and Twentieth Day of the first month, which shall be in this present yeare of our Lord, inclusive, 1694.

The Tax is ordered to be paid unto William Hixson or his Lawful order.

Overseer of the Wayes, then nominated, is John Abbot.

1695. 1 Mon. 25 Day. A list of the Names and Sirnames of the Taxable Inhabitants of the Township of Nottingham: Mahlon Stacey, John Lambert, Senior, Thomas Lambert,

Joshua Wright, William Embley, Martin Scott, Ann Pharo, John Rogers, John Lambert, Junior, John Abbot, Robert Pearson, Ann Murfin, Samuel Overton, William Hixson, Thomas Gilberthorpe, Anthony Woodward, William Quicksall, Thomas Tindall, William Watson, Isaac Watson, Sarah Scholey, William Bidle, Joshua Ely, Matthew Clayton, John Lees, Nathaniel Petit, John Brearley, Moses Petit, Richard Ridgeway, Jonathan Davis, Thomas Greene, Ralph Hunt, Theophilus Phillips, Charles Biles, Thomas Smith, Thomas Coleman, John Richardson.

Third Extract:

1695. 4 Mo. 18 day. Att a Towne Meeting, then holden at the House of John Lambert in Nottingham aforesaid, for the Preventing of the frequent Nuisances dayly don by Hoggs, and for reducing their numerous herds into lesser Companies. After some debate had about the premises, The Question is Putt, Whether Any of the Inhabitants shall exceed the number of six. And them at all times to keep sufficiently Ring in their noses with good Iron rings, And to be kept closely pounded up in good Substantial pounds for the same purpose. Voted unanimously, that none shall exceed the Number, And shall also Ring and pound.

It is further agreed at the Same Meeting, that every person or persons, that shall transgress herein, by keeping more than six, forfeit Ten Shillings, and for every hogg that runs at large and upound, the Sum of five Shillings per hogg. Which said forfeiture (upon the offender refusing to pay) shall by virtue of a Warrant from the Magistrate, upon one complaint made to the constable to be directed, be levyed, by distress, and sale of the offender's goods.

11 Mon. 15 day. Att a Towne Meeting then holden at the house of John Lambert, in Nottingham aforesaid, Samuel Overton is chosen Constable for the yeare ensuing, and Gervas Pharo as Overseer of Wayes on this side Sent Pink. (Assanpink) And Richard Ridgway as Overseer for the Wayes beyond.

The day and yeare aforesaid, at the place aforesaid, It is further ordered and agreed upon by the said Meeting, That for the defraying of the expenses payed out for the Burial of a Strange man found drowned, &c., with other necessary expenses of the said Township. And also something to be allowed in consideration of the charges of our Neighbors of Chesterfield Towne touching on accomodation made with the Indians for the better continuance of Amity and Concord, &c. That every hundred acres of land counted as a plantation or Settlement, or thereunto appendant, shall pay 8 shillings for the Hundred. And all Lans Surveyed and appropriated,

though unsettled, shall pay 4 pence per hundred. Which said assessment shall be gathered by the Constable of said towne, &c., and paid out for the uses aforemen'td, as by the said Towne Meeting, shall be directed, at, or on this side the five and twentieth day of the first month next ensuing.

Fourth Extract:

1697. 10 Month, 23 day. At a towne meeting then holden at the house of Ann Murfin, in Nottingham Township aforesaid, William Quicksall is chosen constable, Robert Pearson overseer for wayes. And it is further agreed at the aforesaid meeting that if any person or persons whatsoever within the said township which ought to do, and shall neglect to do his due and proportionable service at all publique and common days work, for the repairation of bridges and highways, &c., and other publique necessary service to be done, after due and lawfull notice given, he or they so offending and neglecting, shall for every day neglected, pay three shillings per day, and upon refusal to pay, being lawfully demanded, the overseer for the time being may apply himself to the next magistrate, upon whose just complaint the said magistrate shall issue out his warrant to the constable to make, distress, and sale of the offender's good, &c., for the satisfaction of these forfeiture. The persons whose names are underwritten in affirmation and confirmation of the same, as a binding by-law, inviolably to be observed and kept on the behalf of the township, have subscribed: Mahlon Stacey, Thomas Lambert, Joshua Wright, William Embley, Martin Scott, William Watson, John Rogers, John Lambert, John Abbot, Robert Pearson, Thomas Gilberthorpe, William Murfin, Samuel Overton, Caleb Wheatley Mathew Grange, Thomas Tindall, John Watson, Isaac Watson, William Quicksall, John Leeson, Job Bunting.

The said towne meeting doth further agree and accordingly order that every Constable of the said township for the time being, shall have and be paid two shillings for summoning in the inhabitants, at one time and no more, to a towne meeting. And for going to Burlington to attend the Court there, he shall be paid two shillings by the day for each and every day that he is out on that service.

William Emley is by consent of the said towne meeting chosen Clerk, for the ensuing yeare, and ordered to have 20 shillings per yeare for his salary. Further agreed at the same meeting that the late Constable assessment shall be now doubled, and gathered after the same method that the former was gathered.

1698. 10 Month, 12 day. At a towne meeting held at the house of Ann Murfin in Nottingham aforesaid, it is then and there

unanimously agreed by the inhabitants to raise an assessment for the defraying of the Constable's charges and to buy a towne booke, with other necessary expenses of said township, and the same to be levied and collected at the rate of nine pence per hundred acres.

Isaac Watson chosen Constable; Martin Scott Overseer for Wayes. The foregoing minutes ordered to be ingrossed.

William Emley, Clerke

(Note: At this date, 1698, about 10,000 acres had been taken up in the Township. Computing the tax at 9 pence per hundred acres at the value of English money amounted to about \$18. This is the first mention of the election of a clerk, yet the records in the old book seem to be in the same handwriting.)

Fifth Extract:

1699. 11 Month, 29 Day. At a Towne Meeting holden at the house of Ann Murfin in Nottingham aforesaid, &c., William Quicksall made up his accounts with the Towne, and is debtor the sum of four shillings. Afterwards pd.

Moneys ungathered in of that assessment levied at nine pence the hundred acres of lan amounts to twenty-seven shillings. Ordered that William Quicksall collect the same. Ordered that another assessment, for the defraying of the necessary charges of said Township be levied and collected at the rate of six pence for every hundred acres of land that are holden as Plantations, within the said Township, and to be collected by the Constable before the first day of the third Month, called May, which shall be in the yeare of our Lord, 1700. Caleb Wheatley chosen Constable. Thomas Tindall, Overseer of the Wayes.

1700. 9 Month, 18 Day. At a Towne Meeting holden at the house of Ann Murfin in Nottingham aforesaid, &c., William Quicksall ordered to pay Caleb Wheatley 5 shillings. Caleb Wheatley ordered to gather in the assessment assessed the nine and twentieth day of the eleventh month, Anno, 1699.

Samuel Overton ordered to gather in the residue of the County Tax, and also of the Towne tax that was ungathered when William Quicksall was Constable. Ordered that William Emley be paid his salary for Clerkship out of the Towne tax. And also six and fifty shillings by him formerly paid downe in moneys and goods for clearing off the Indians.

1700. 12 Month, 8 Day. At a Towne meeting at the house of Ann Murfin aforesaid, Caleb Wheatley accounted, and all cleared. John Tantum chosen Constable. William Murfin Overseer for Wayes. William Emley received of Caleb Wheatley fourty shillings for salary for two years Clerkship past, that

is, beginning the 14th day of the first month, anno 1697, and ending with 14 day of the first Month, anno 1699. Ditto—by my owne tax—2 shillings.

1701. 12 Month, 11 Day. At a Towne meeting, at the house of William Murfin within the Township of Nottingham aforesaid, &c., John Lambert chosen Constable, Samuel Overton, Overseer for ways.

1702. 12 Month, 11 Day. At a Towne meeting, at the house of William Murfin, aforesaid, Agreed that an assessment be laid, at 6 pence per hundred acres, and that ordered to be doubled. Thomas Tindall creditor to cash laid out, 14:06. Ditto, debtor by 3s.6p. received 03:06. Thomas Gilberthorpe cleared all arrears to this day. Agreed that the way leading through Samuel Overton's land over Crosswick's Creek shall be continued as a Bridl-stie. Joshua Wright chosen Constable. John Tantum Overseer for Ways.

(Note: The Murfin land where many meetings were held lay between Lowry's Mills and Yardville.

"Third month called May." The legal year then began in March. "Moneys and goods for clearing off the Indians." This does not mean that the Indians were driven off, but that their claims were settled amicably. Many of the Indians stayed in Nottingham Township for sixty years after 1700.

"Bridle-stie." Path for a horseman. Now called "bridle path." Overton's land was about Yardville, and it is likely that this path was the one leading to the ford, where the railroad bridge was later built, and later called Watson's Ford.)

Sixth Extract:

1703. 10 Month, 6 Day. At a Towne Meeting at the house of William Murfin, in Nottingham aforesaid, &c., Thomas Tindall, the Constable gathered 3 pounds, 9 shillings, 6 pence, part of the double assessment, assessed the eighth day of the 12 month, Anno 1702.

Out of which he paid himself	0.4.6
Ditto to William Quicksal, tax	0.3.0
To himself, more for charges	0.16.0

Ditto Thomas Tindall, paid to William Emley, in full of all accounts for Clerkship to this day, the sum of 3 pounds, that is to say, 02:14.00 in cash, and 6 shillings by his assessment.

1703. 29 Day, 10 Month. The names of the Inhabitants of the said the Township of Nottingham, with their respective Quantities of Land, at this day:

Mahlon Stacey, 500 acres;
 Caleb Wheatley, 120 acres;
 Thomas Lambert, 1,050 acres;

Samuel Overton, 200 acres;
John Lambert, 450 acres;
John Tantum, 240 acres;
Joshua Wright, 600 acres;
Mathew Grange, 260 acres;
William Emley, 600 acres;
William Stevens, 1,350 acres;
Isaac Watson, 440 acres;
Gervas Hall, 200 acres;
William Watson, 150 acres;
Thomas Gilberthorpe, 700 acres;
John Rogers, heirs, 150 acres;
Hermanus King, 350 acres;
Thomas Tindall, 460 acres;
William Quicksall, 300 acres;
John Abbot, 440 acres;
Henry Scott, for Stevens, 200 acres;
Robert Pearson, 1,350 acres;
Abraham Marshall, 700 acres;
William Murfin, 900 acres;
Frances Davenport, 160 acres;
Mathew Watson, 30 acres.

Contents of the whole Township, 11,010 Acres.

(Note: It will be noticed that some of the names found in former extracts are now missing. Since 1698 those living above the Assanpink were in the Township of Maidenhead, which was formed at that time. Mahlon Stacey is listed as having 500 acres. Most of his Ballifield plantation of 800 acres was above the Assanpink.)

1703. 11 Month, 25 Day. At a Towne Meeting at the house of William Murfin in Nottingham aforesaid, &c., Agreed that William Emley be continued Clerk, from that time, for the year following, at twenty Shillings for the year. At the same time, Thomas Gilberthorpe, William Emley, Robert Pearson and John Abbot, chosen Assessors to assess the County tax, to be paid by the Township. At the same time Thomas Tindall and Samuel Overton chosen Collectors to collect and pay the same unto Nathaniel Westland, the Treasurer appointed.

Seventh Extract: (Copy of the warrant for assessing and collecting the County Tax mentioned above.)

Province of Novasesaria or Newjarsey.

A copy of the Warrant for assessing and collecting the Tax. To the Constable of Nottingham, in the Province of Nova Cesarea, or Newjarsey, Greeting.

Whereas the Grand Jury, for the Body of this County, at the Quarterly Court of Sessions, by adjournments, holden

the five and twentieth Day of December, last past, by concurrence of the Bench, then and there sitting, have laid a Tax, upon the said County of Burlington, for the finishing and repairing the Court House and prison, in Burlington aforesaid, to be levied in manner following, viz:

That every person whose estate as well Real as Personal, shall be estimated and valued, in each and every Township where such person, and persons, do reside in said County, and that every such Township shall choose their respective Assessors, for the estimating, valuing and assessing the same Tax. And shall also choose their respective Collectors, for collecting and gathering the same, which assessors shall assess every person within their respective Township, after the rate of five shillings per hundred pounds for his, or her, whole estate, both real and personal, as aforesaid. And for such persons that have no such visible estate, amounting to one hundred pounds, to assess upon such person one shilling and eight pence. Which said Tax so assessed shall be collected and paid to such Collector, or Collectors, either in money or in wheat at the market price, at or before the first day of April next, and by each and every such Collector shall be paid into the hands of Mr. Nathaniel Westland, Treasurer, appointed for this County for the use aforesaid.

Pursuant to which said Bill: These are in her Majesties Name to will and require you to summons the freeholders, and Inhabitants within your said Township, to meet together, at some convenient place within your Township, by you to be appointed, within ten days next after the receipt hereof, then and there to nominate and choose such and so many Assessors and Collectors, as shall seem needful and necessary for the assessing, and collecting the same Tax; hereof fail not as you will answer the contrary at your peril.

Given under our hands and seals this seventh day of January in the second yeare of the Reign of our Soveraigne Lady Ann, Queen of England, &c., and in the yeare of our Lord 1703. Signed by Thomas Revell, Nathaniel Westland, Robert Wheeler.

Pursuant, and in observance of the above written Warrant, and by authority of the Said Quarterly Court Sessions, as aforesaid, the said freeholders, inhabitants, and all other persons residing within the said Township, that are Taxable, are Taxed for their respective estates, in manner following, Viz: The Names of the Inhabitants and their respective sums paid toward the Tax:

Mahlon Stacey, John Lambert, Thomas Lambert, Joshua Wright, William Emley, Isaac Watson, William Watson, John

Rogers' heirs, Thomas Tindall, John Abbott, Robert Pearson, William Murfin, Caleb Wheatley, Samuel Overton, John Tantum, Mathew Grange, William Stevens, Gervas Hall, Thomas Gilberthorpe, Hermanus King, William Quicksall, Abraham Marshall, Francis Davenport, Mathew Watson, Richard Wilgeese, John Murfin, Peter Ball, Samuel Wright, Thomas Wright, Thomas Emley, William Emley, Jr., William Smith Miller, Isaac Herring.

(Note: No amounts are set opposite the names in the old book. The ancient town clerk placed the names in order of the location of their land, beginning with Stacey, and then down the river, then southeast along the bluff, and along Crosswicks Creek to the farthest point of the township. Lambert's land reached far enough eastward to take in all of the present Lalor Tract; Tindall and Abbott joined at White Horse; Pearson and Murfin joined at Lowry's Mills; Overton was about Yardville, while the Quicksall land was down toward Extonville. Much of the interior of the Township was not taken up until later.)

Eighth and Last Extract:

1704. 10th Month, 10th Day. At a Towne Meeting at the house of Caleb Wheatley within the Township of Nottingham aforesaid, Isaac Warson chosen Constable, Hermanus King Overseer of ye Highways.

1705. 9th Month, 24th Day. At a Towns Meeting at the house of Thomas Tindall within the Township of Nottingham aforesaid, John Stevens chosen Constable, Thomas Gilberthorpe and Isaac Watson Overseers of the High Wayes.

1706. 9th Mon., 9th Day. At a Towns Meeting at the House of John Tantum in Nottingham aforesaid, Thomas Gilberthorpe chosen Constable. But ye Court saw not cause to qualifie him, but chose Wm. Watson in his place. John Stevens & Isaac Watson chosen Overseers of the Roads.

(Date illegible) At Towns Meeting at the house of William Murfin in the Township of Nottingham aforesaid, William Beakes chosen Constable. William Quicksall & Mahlon Stacy chosen Overseers of the High Wayes.

1708. 10th Mon. 28th Day. At a Towns Meeting at the House of William Murfin abovesaid. Then made an assessment (in persuance of a Warrant from Thomas Revell) of the sum of 3 pounds, 4 shillings, 6 pence toward the repairs of the Court House at Burlington. Thomas Tindall & John Abbot chosen Assessors, and Samuel Overton, Collector, who is to pay it as by the Warrant is Directed. Samuel Radford chosen Constable. Thomas Tindall & Caleb Wheatley chosen Overseers of the High Wayes.

1709. Mon., 1st Day. At a Towns Meeting at the House of John Tantum in the Nottingham aforesaid, Mahlon Stacy chosen Constable. William Beakes & William Forde chosen Overseers of the High Wayes, Thomas Tindall chosen Overseer of ye Poore.

1710. (Month and day not legible) At a Towne Meeting at the house of John Tantum abovesaid. Joshua Wright & John Abbot are chosen Assessors. Ord: to raise money to Defray the publick Charge of the Town.

The end of the old book.

(Note: Some new names appear in the last extract—Radford, Beakes, Ford, Smith, and others, but the growth was slow. In 1709 is the first mention of "ye poore", but I guess we have had them with us ever since.

The writing in the old Town Book seems to be that of one person until the last page.)

CHAPTER VI

AN ANCIENT BURIAL GROUND

There is probably no enclosure in this section which contains more tombstones bearing ancient dates than the little spot, which is the western end of the cemetery in the rear of the Pearson Memorial Methodist Church, at White Horse.

This spot was used as the burial place of those chiefly who adhered to the Church of England, and was on the tract of land taken up by Thomas Tindall about 1687. Very likely the early Tindalls are buried there, but there are no tombstones bearing that name. Later, when this land came into the possession of the Pearsons, it came to be known as the Pearson burying ground.

Sleeping in this ancient plot are the remains of persons who lived in England and here as subjects of Cromwell, Charles II, James, William and Mary, Anne and the Georges, and over each was read the beautiful service of the Church of England, the officiating clergymen coming from Burlington and later from Trenton.

The road from Trenton to the bridge over the Crosswicks Creek originally ran along the westerly side of the enclosure, but when the present roads were made, the plot was left in the middle of the field and so remained until 1858, when the church was built and the lot in the rear made to reach to and include it.

The oldest grave which is marked is that of Robert Pearson, who died March 27, 1704, and the next is his wife Catherine, or Katrin, who died March 18, 1715. These two stones are not the original ones, they having crumbled away. The oldest stone, bearing a date, that has stood the test of time is at the grave of Elizabeth, wife of the second Robert Pearson, and the date is February 23, 1722. She was the daughter of Thomas Tindall.

There are many gravestones in the old plot which bear dates ranging from 200 to 250 years ago. A stone at the grave of a ten-year-old child named Joseph Pearson, bears the date December 21, 1775, and bears this inscription:

"O, then in pity
 Ease his wounded breast,
And let him sink
 In instant death to rest."

These lines suggest an accident, and so it was. The lad fell off a fence onto a knife which he held in his hand, the blade piercing his heart.

Here are the graves of James and Mary Cubberley, dated 1754 and 1772, respectively. From them have descended all of that numerous family of Cubberleys in this section. Their son William died in 1774, and others of that family are interred there. The slab marked "T.C." is doubtless of their son Thomas.

The early Quigleys are also sleeping here, as well as some of the Douglas family and, in fact, we may call it a pioneers' graveyard. No doubt burials were made here soon after the first settlers located along the creek, which was from 1678. A virulent fever was prevalent here in 1687, and it is highly probable that some of its victims have their last resting place here.

Coming down to later times we find a few more pretentious gravestones. A big horizontal slab reminds us that Robert How is buried beneath it. That name is sometimes spelled "Howe." Nearby is the grave of his sister, who was the wife of William Pearson, of the old mansion across the fields to the westward. William is also buried here, as is Isaac Pearson, his father.

By the side of these graves is a small slab to the memory of Sarah How, who died in 1841. No one would dream that the



Ancient Tombstones In Pearson Memorial Cemetery.

one buried here had a history, but this is the grave of "Sallie How", one of the six little girls who, dressed in white, sang at the triumphal arch at the Assanpink Bridge on Broad Street, Trenton, in 1789, when General George Washington passed through Trenton on his way to New York to be inaugurated as the first President of these United States.

In the midst of these graves lies one who should be remembered and revered by the members of the Pearson Memorial Methodist Chuch—Mary Pearson Hopkinson. A plain slab marks her grave.

It had long been the desire of the Pearson family to have a church erected in their locality, but it remained for Mary to take the initiative and also to see that it was finished. She went among the descendants of the old families and solicited funds, but she bore the lion's share of the cost. She made the church building, which was completed in 1858, free for all denominations, but before she died she deeded the property to the Methodists and, by will, left a sum of money toward the cost of a parsonage. Mary's husband, Thomas Hopkinson, is buried at Bordentown. Mary was a daughter of William Pearson, and a granddaughter of Isaac Pearson.

CHAPTER VII

GENERAL WASHINGTON'S MARCH ACROSS THE TOWNSHIP

Many communities boast that "Washington slept here", but when he visited our township so many years ago, he was very wide awake.

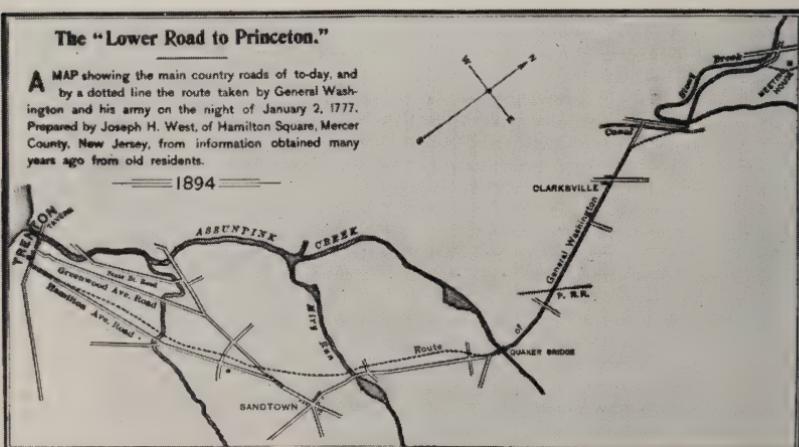
After the glorious victory at Trenton on December 25, 1776, General Washington held a council of war at the Douglass house, at which time it was decided to make the flank movement which fooled the British and resulted in the victory at Princeton. Several persons were called in to inform General Washington and his staff about the lower road to Princeton by way of Quaker Bridge. Two persons from our township were among those called in—Patrick Lamb, who lived at Quaker Bridge and probably kept the tavern there, and Ezekiel Anderson, who lived east of Quaker Bridge. These two men, with another from Lawrence, guided the Continentals over this route, called at that time, the lower road to Princeton.

As soon as the plan of operations was decided upon, the order was issued, and in the darkness the troops began quietly to make ready for the flank movement. Camp fires were kept burning, and a strong fatigue party was directed to throw up additional earthworks in order, if possible, to keep the British under the delusion that the men were still preparing for the battle in the morning. The noise of the tools, the voices of the fatigue party, the axe blows, and the throwing up of frozen earth could be heard distinctly by the enemy pickets only one hundred and fifty yards distant. The camp

The "Lower Road to Princeton."

A MAP showing the main country roads of to-day, and by a dotted line the route taken by General Washington and his army on the night of January 2, 1777. Prepared by Joseph H. West, of Hamilton Square, Mercer County, New Jersey, from information obtained many years ago from old residents.

1894



fires could also be seen burning brightly, the flames concealing everything beyond. The General gave orders to keep up the fires until morning, when the fatigue party should push on and join their marching regiment as soon as possible.

An advance party, under command of Major Isaac Sherman, of Connecticut, of the 26th Regiment, Continental foot, a Massachusetts regiment, led by the American column, and Brigadier General Hugh Mercer and his brigade followed closely behind. The main army started for Princeton in the morning of January 3, 1777 by way of the Sandtown Road. General Arthur St. Clair's brigade, with two six-pounders, followed Mercer's command, and General Washington and his staff were with them.

The army moved silently; orders were given in low tones; rims of the wheels of the gun carriages were wrapped in old cloths, so that no sound would betray their night movement to the enemy guards. The army marched down the Sandtown Road, very near what is now Hamilton Avenue to a point now called Meade Drive, then marched over to the crossing on Miry Run. The road led through heavy woods; here and there trees had been cut, and the stumps interfered with the marching. The line of march continued on through the desolate tract known as "The Barrens." After passing through this tract the road merged into the Quaker Road, a highway used by the Friends in traveling between their meeting houses at Crosswicks and Stony Brook. A short distance beyond the junction of the two roads, the army crossed the Assanpink Creek over the Quaker bridge. They then continued on through Clarksville and on to Stony Brook and Princeton.

Some years ago this route was marked with bronze tablets and monuments by the Sons of the Revolution.

CHAPTER VIII

A MODEST HERO

“But to the hero, when his sword
Has won the battle for the free,
Thy voice sounds like a prophet’s word
And in its hallow tones are heard
The thanks of millions yet to be.”

In the old part of the Baptist cemetery at Hamilton Square, in the rear of the church, are two small tombstones, one marked Gershom, and the other Mary Loveless, with no dates or inscription of any kind. The proper spelling of this name is Lovelace, but it has been spelled Loveless for several generations.

Gershom Loveless was a descendant of the family that furnished two Colonial Governors—Francis, Governor of New York 1668-1673, and John, Fourth Lord Lovelace, his grandson, Governor of New York and New Jersey, 1709.

But the most interesting incident in the life of Gershom Loveless is the tradition that he was one of the party that,



Graves of Gershom Loveless and His Wife Mary.

disguised as Indians, made the memorable raid on three British tea ships at Griffin's Wharf, in Boston Harbor, on the evening of December 16, 1773, and broke open and threw into the bay 340 chests of tea. This was the incident that soon led to Concord, Lexington and Bunker Hill.

Of course, the men and boys who made up the "Boston Tea Party" had to get away and keep quiet for some time, and the tradition is that Gershom Loveless hurried away from the vicinity of Boston and eventually came to this section. There were about fifty persons in the "Tea Party" and in later years historians endeavored to secure the names of all who took part, but they were never successful in obtaining all the names.

Gershom Loveless was born March 28, 1757, and was not 17 years old when he took part in the tea party. After coming to this section he served as a private in the Burlington County militia in Captain Jonathan Phillips' company; New Jersey Continental Line under Colonel Israel Shreve. He was at the Battle of Crosswicks Bridge, and at the Battle of Monmouth. He also served with the battalion in General Sullivan's expedition against the Six Nations, in Western Pennsylvania and New York in 1779, being in the battles of Chemung and Newtown, New York, and the next year was in the battles of Springfield and Connecticut Farms in New Jersey. In 1781 he was transferred to Captain Weyman's company in the Second Regiment, New Jersey Continental Line, and in 1783 was transferred with his company to the command of Colonel Ogden, and was furloughed at New Windsor, New York, on June 5, 1783, until the ratification of the definite treaty of peace, and was discharged by proclamation of Congress November 3, 1783. A splendid Revolutionary War record had Gershom Loveless.

Within two or three years after the close of the struggle for freedom, Gershom Loveless married Mary Adams, and located just east of the Fair Grounds, where the Caleb C. Rogers homestead once stood. Mrs. Caleb Rogers was the granddaughter of Gershom Loveless, and the late Harvey Rogers, Township Tax Collector for many years, was a great-great-grandson.

CHAPTER IX

A GHOST STORY OF OLD NOTTINGHAM

At the intersection of the Kuser Road with the White Horse Road leading from Mercerville, the north side was for many years heavily wooded. The Kuser Road has been known by the names of "Brickyard and Pond Run Road" and "Lloyd Road." Benjamin Lloyd was an old-time owner of the Kuser Farm. The other name was from the brickyards on the Pearson farm, farther east.

At this corner, during the War of the Revolution, a British officer was killed. According to tradition, he was supposed to have had a considerable amount of money with him, and was on his way from Philadelphia to the eastward. Being pursued he entered the woods on the northeast corner and, on emerging, was shot and killed. As no money was found on his body, it was claimed that he dug a hole with his sword and buried the money in the woods. It is also believed that his slayers were highwaymen, not patriots.

After the Revolution, and during the first half of the nineteenth century, weird stories were rife concerning this piece of woods, and it was long claimed that the place was haunted—a figure that dissolved when approached, and a headless man were seen by some persons. The woods were dug up many times in search of the money supposedly buried by the British officer. At this point the old Pearson and Abbott tracts joined, and it was said there was a gore of land there that neither deed covered. Betsy Hunt, who was one of the last survivors of those who were old enough to remember the Revolutionary War, often spoke of this tragedy at the old corner and the "haunted woods."

In the 1840's, Solomon Hunt, who then lived on a farm on the Kuser Road, had a remarkable dream. He dreamed that someone had stolen a book from the Union Sunday School library and placed it in this haunted woods. The dream was so vivid that Mr. Hunt went to the woods and was astounded to find the book at the place indicated in his dream. He consulted the person who had charge of the books of that Sunday School and was informed that no book seemed to be missing, and the affair remained a mystery. The book which Mr. Hunt found in the woods was kept by the Hunt family for many years.

The Union Sunday School building stood on what is now Klockner Road, a few hundred yards south of the Donnelly Memorial Hospitals, and was taken down about thirty years ago.

CHAPTER X

WHEN THE STARS FELL

Of course, the stars did not fall upon Nottingham Township alone, but this story tells of the reaction of the people then living here.

From about one o'clock until broad daylight on the morning of November 13, 1833, a most remarkable shower of meteors fell. At that time the people in general knew very little about astronomy; many of them believed that the stars were actually dropping to the earth and that the end of the world was at hand. Many living then remembered the "dark days" about the year 1790 when according to accounts and traditions, no eclipse of the sun was ever so dark. The fowls went to roost and a deep gloom settled over the land, which frightened many. Once before had our people been frightened. That was in 1719, when the aurora borealis assumed such enormous and terrifying proportions, and everyone used to think that all such occurrences had some hidden meaning or presaged some dire event.

In 1833, the only paper published in this locality was the State Gazette. The issue of November 16th had a small item which mentioned the shower of meteors, but the next issue had excerpts from the Philadelphia and New York papers describing the event at some length, but did not give the experience of any local observers.

This account is taken from the bible of William Cubberley, and was written by him shortly after the event.

"On the 13th of November, 1833, the elements appeared to be greatly convulsed by the appearance of the stars falling in great abundance, some in a flaming aspect, so as to make it quite light. It was on the morning of that day, about daybreak, that I, William Cubberley, and my wife Sarah, stood in the back door of our home and beheld them to our great surprise and consternation and, according to later information, they were seen far and near, from about one o'clock in the morning until daylight caused them to vanish. This mystery I have recorded on this page for the information of other generations when I am dead and gone, because the like was never seen before in these parts in our day, to our knowledge.

Signed by William W. Cubberley, and
Sarah Cubberley."

Comparatively few persons were employed at night work in those days, and only a few who happened to be out late saw the full display of heaven's fireworks, but as the flashes of light entered the windows it awakened the older ones, who

aroused the rest, and in many a doorway stood the frightened occupants, the little ones clinging to their parents with awe-stricken faces. Slowly did the people move about that morning. Some looked apprehensively toward the horizon where the sun was wont to rise, and not a few feared that it would nevermore appear, and it was not until the orb was well up in the heavens that the people began to shake off the gloom and fear and move about in the accustomed way.

The most startling part of the shower was toward daybreak. The fireballs seemed to fly in every direction, some of them giving out a train of fire, and while all seemed to be coming down rapidly, none appeared to strike the earth, being consumed by their intense heat before reaching it.

The "Falling Stars" was the popular name by which this shower of meteors was remembered in after years.

CHAPTER XI

THE ATTEMPT TO NAVIGATE THE ASSANPINK CREEK

The historic Assanpink has its source in Monmouth County, and flows westward through Washington and West Windsor Townships; forms the boundary between Hamilton Township and Lawrence Township, then meanders through the city of Trenton to the Delaware, emptying into that river near Stacy Park. This stream was the "Assunpink" of the Indians; it was called the "Derwent" by some of the English settlers, and has been known at later times as "Sumpink", "St. Pink", "Sampink" and "Assanpink."

The creek, a beautiful stream in spots, does not anywhere present an appearance which would justify an attempt to make it a navigable stream, but the fact remains that about 150 years ago a considerable sum of money was sunk in efforts to make it capable of floating good-sized boats as far up as the neighborhood of Quaker Bridge, and it was proposed to cut a canal from there to the Millstone River, and thus make a waterway across the State to Raritan Bay.

In 1774 an act was passed to enable the owners of the lands to clean out the Assanpink from near Quaker Bridge to its headwaters, but from Quaker Bridge to its mouth, the creek has in it, at most times, a considerable amount of water. When the public spirited men of this section saw the immense amount of carting which had to be done over the poor roads from Lamberton to New Brunswick, they began to look for a better way. At that time the Perriwig Bar in the Delaware was not the nuisance it later became, and the traffic up the river in sloops and larger vessels was great. The bluff along the river at Lamberton (then in Nottingham Township; now the 6th Ward of Trenton) was lined with storehouses and the old village was the scene of hustling activities at all times when the river was not frozen over. Wood and charcoal were the kinds of fuel used everywhere, and the city of Philadelphia took all the wood that the farmers of this section could cart to Lamberton to be shipped there, and after unloading the wood the drivers would frequently be urged by the merchants to take a load of goods from the vessels to New Brunswick and, in fact, the farmers could find work for their teams whenever they could spare them by carting goods from Lamberton to New Brunswick. This state of affairs continued until the first steam whistle on the Camden and Amboy Railroad sounded the death knell of old Lamberton; the completion of the Delaware and Raritan Canal was the finishing stroke.

During the war of 1812 an immense quantity of goods was carted across the State, the vessels of the enemy blockading the coast.

The best road to New Brunswick at that time was the old road by way of Maidenhead (Lawrenceville) and Princeton, but it was farther than the road by way of Sandtown (Mercerville) and Cranbury, which was sandy much of the way. Both of these roads were used continually for the carting of freight, but the former was used more for passengers. It was to make a shorter and better road for all this traffic that a company obtained a charter in 1804 to build a new road from Trenton to New Brunswick. This company did not build a turnpike over the road already existing but bought land all the way and built a new and straight road. This road made the distance to New Brunswick 28 miles, and was popularly known as the "Straight Turnpike", this end of it being known as Brunswick Avenue.

Several years before that a number of persons conceived the plan of making a water route for the freight traffic, and they formed a company and began work. The plan was to slack-water the Assanpink and Millstone Creeks, connecting the two by a canal and reach Raritan Bay with flat-bottomed boats.

Charles Ewing, afterwards Chief Justice of New Jersey, was the president of the Assanpink Navigation Company, and James Ewing was the secretary.

This company did much work and spent lots of money to make the project a success. They built dams where necessary, and constructed locks at Millham, now the 8th Ward of Trenton; at Whitehead's and at Lawrence Mills. The remains of the old dam at Millham were still visible years after the project was abandoned. After much patience and perseverance the dams and locks from the city to Lawrence Mills were about finished, and it is said that a boat loaded with wood started from the vicinity of Quaker Bridge on a trial trip. One can imagine with what interest the members of the Navigation Company watched this boat as it plowed its way down the Lawrence millpond, saw it locked to the crooked creek below, make another drop at Whitehead's and still another at Millham lock.

However, the trip was not a success. The company made many alterations and, with mingled hopes and fears, made many other trial trips before giving it up as a bad job.

Although the attempt to navigate the Assanpink was a dismal failure, it was the germ from which the Delaware and Raritan Canal was produced.

CHAPTER XII

THE TUSCARORAS OF YARDVILLE

During the early 1800's the farmers, mechanics, and laboring men of Sand Hills, now Yardville, became banded together in sort of clannish way. They had no regular organization, no pass words, or call words, but they stood by each other at all times and under all circumstances. In some manner they got the name of "Tuscaroras." It has been so long ago that it cannot be told how they got that name, which was the same as that of the tribe of Indians that became part of the Six Nations more than a hundred years before that time.

This group of men were experts at mowing and cradling or doing a big day's work of any kind and, if necessary, could "lick their weight in wildcats." It was not a political organization, but the members were democrats in the primary sense of that word. They had frequent bouts with the athletes of Groveville, and they were well known in the county as a tough body of men to molest.

John Ginglen, a jolly, sociable man, and keeper of the old hostelry at Sand Hills at that time, and who afterwards became a prominent and successful farmer, was looked upon as the leader of the Tuscaroras.

Most persons have heard of some of the old-time pranks of the Princeton students and of the troubles in times gone by between the "gown" and the "town." Some of these students were fond of adventure and were known to enter, as uninvited guests, at merrymakings of the country boys and girls and, if a fuss was kicked up, they generally found themselves no match for the sturdy country lads.

In the years before the Civil War a number of the students at Princeton College were sons of the wealthy planters of the South. They were chivalrous, had high notions of honor, and were quick to resent an insult.

About the year 1843 John Ginglen and one or more students from the South met at the bar of a tavern in Princeton. The bone of contention then, and for many years after, was the slavery question. Whether the conversation was on that line is not certain, as it is said that the toast which Ginglen offered was a common one in those days, but when he raised his glass and said, "Here's to all the hair of your head and nigger wool grown on", the young men from the South were instantly aroused. If this toast was a common one, it was new to them and they took it as an insult. Sharp and angry words were hurled at Ginglen, who retorted in like manner, and if an

explanation was offered, it was not accepted, and one of the students drew a handsomely mounted but murderous-looking sheath knife. Here, face to face, stood a representative of the slave oligarchy of the South and a champion of the democracy of the North, and both as bold as lions.

Ginglen drew the weapons the Tuscaroras always carried—his fists—and quick as a flash he had the student on the floor and took the knife away from him. The young man swore he would have revenge.

Early one evening not long after this fracas a number of wagons rattled up to the tavern at Nottingham Square and a group of active and determined looking young men alighted. While the horses were resting, they entered the barroom and called for drinks. Over their glasses they announced that they were students from Princeton on their way to Sand Hills to "do up" Ginglen and the Tuscarora gang. Unluckily for the Tigers, the tavern keeper was a brother of John Ginglen. He slipped out, jumped on a horse, and rode to Sand Hills at full speed to alarm the Tuscaroras—making himself a sort of second Paul Revere. The alarm was given and the Tuscaroras assembled. On learning that they were likely to have a fight with men armed with bowie knives and pistols, they decided it would not be sensible to depend on fists alone, so they scattered and returned as soon as possible with loaded guns, pitchforks, etc. and awaited the onslaught of the students.

A number of men of the vicinity, seeing these warlike preparations and knowing that if the students arrived and showed fight the village would be drenched with blood, determined to prevent the meeting of the two groups, if possible. They hurried down the Yardville Road and, hailing the students, told them of the preparations made to receive them; that they would have no chance against a body of angry men whose stronghold they had come to storm, and that if they persisted the possibilities were that none of their party would live to tell the story. The students, after some parleying, reluctantly yielded, and turning about, slowly journeyed toward Princeton.

The knife that Mr. Ginglen took from the student was kept by his family for many years, but nothing is known of the after life of the young student. If he lived twenty years after this incident, no doubt his dash and spirit made him a leader in the ranks of the Gray in the awful struggle which filled this land with new-made graves, but buried forever the cause which made possible the fight between him and the leader of the Tuscaroras, which organization passed out of existence about 1853.

CHAPTER XIII

INTERESTING ANECDOTES OF A DEMOCRATIC PRINCE

It is now over one hundred years ago since Prince Napoleon Francois Lucien Charles Murat went around among his friends and cronies in our township and bade them good-bye. The Bonaparte family was again on top in France, and Murat returned to that country and soon found himself in clover. His father was Joachim Murat, the dashing leader of Napoleon's cavalry, and his mother was Napoleon's sister, Caroline, and he was born in Milan in 1803. His uncle, Joseph Bonaparte, settled near Bordentown about the year 1817, and about seven years later Prince Murat arrived and, after living a while near Columbus, he bought a farm on the south bank of the creek below White Horse. Though living over the line in Burlington County, he spent much of his time in this township. He built a curious looking house on the plan of an Italian villa, the barns, stables, and all outbuildings being connected with it, all forming a hallow square, fronting the inside. His friends used to laugh at his one-story house, but Murat said, "Damned if I want anybody over my head." He spoke English imperfectly and had an emphatic way of expressing himself.

Prince Murat had a fiery temper and in a fit of anger once kicked a hostler, who had him arrested, claiming that he had been badly injured. Murat was brought into court. The hostler testified that the Prince had kicked him six times on the extreme end of his spine. After bowing profusely to the judge and jury, Murat said: "My lord, de judge, and gentlemen of de jury, dere has been great efforts and much troubles to make everybody believe me a very bad man, but dat is of no consequences. De man tells you I kick him six times. Six times! And so low as possible. I very sorry to make him show how low it was, but I could not avoid it. Now, my lord and gentlemen of the jury, you see this part of the human skeleton (and he took from his pocket a part of the human skeleton, articulated with wires). Here are de bones. Dese little bones vot you see here (shaking them to the jury), dese little bones are de very place vere de tail of de animal shall grow; dat is to say, if de man who sue me were to be a jack—vot you call it?—ah! jack—horse—and not only very much resemble dat animal, vy you see dese little bones, if dey was long enough, would be his tail."

The court was now convulsed with laughter, and the Prince seeing that he had the best of it, drew his speech to an end by stretching out his enormous leg, shod with his big sporting boot, and clapping his hand on his massive thigh, so that it resounded through the room, exclaimed, "My lord and gentle-

men, how absurd to say that I could give him even von kick vid dat, and not to break all to pieces his leetle tail!"

It was some time before the judge could gather enough dignity to sum up, but the jury gave the hostler six cents damages, and the crowd gave Murat three cheers.

The Prince generally mixed his speech with a little comic profanity when among his chums and, though he did not drink to excess, he would take a drink with a hostler as quickly as with anyone. He was known as a "good fellow" and his boon companions were the barroom loafers. He used to play ten pins at the old White Horse Hotel with anybody who came along, and he sometimes had chalk marks standing against him. He would sit down along a fence and play cards with any good fellow who happened by.

After spending about \$70,000 in farming and on horses, dogs and guns, he began to be pinched for cash. He seemed to have no conception of the value of money. When he had some in his pocket he would walk out to a butcher's wagon, buy a leg of mutton and throw it to his dogs. To a man or boy who held his horse or opened a gate for him he would toss a gold piece, if he had one, and probably in a day or two would borrow a quarter from a darkey or anyone he happened to meet. He was such a likeable fellow that many persons would lend him sums of money or give him credit, and his uncle, Joseph Bonaparte, would help him. His credit finally got so low that his wife started a private school, which proved a success. This was after he moved to Bordentown. Joseph Bonaparte scolded him for his reckless ways of living and considered him a disgrace to the family.

The Prince was a finely built man, tall and broad shouldered and very active. He was an excellent swordsman and good at wrestling, but the late Solomon Hunt, who bought his farm, said he could always throw him.

The Prince's expressions in his peculiar English were sometimes laughable. He and an Irishman were preparing a field on his farm to set out fruit trees. They got into several disputes as to how it should be done and the Prince "cussed and damned." Finally, Murat became disgusted, walked away, and remarked, "One Frenchman and one Irishman make one damn fool." One of his children was very small at birth and when someone remarked about it, the Prince picked up the baby, squeezed the flesh, and exclaimed, "He'll grow! See, his hide is loose!"

He once broke a carriage pole and sent it to Joseph Scott at White Horse to have a new one made. He called for it too soon for Scott and found him practicing the little deception so well known to wagon makers—he was filling up a worm hole

in the pole with putty. The Prince said, "Ha, Scott, what you do?" Scott told him the hole would not hurt the pole and the putty would make it stronger. Murat replied, "If putty is so damn good, make me a pole all putty! I want all wood or all putty!"

The Prince once started a balky team of horses by placing a sheaf of straw under them and setting it on fire. Besides the old White Horse Hotel, he frequently visited the hotel at Sandtown (Mercerville) kept by his countryman, Augustus Mathelin. Wherever he went people were glad to welcome the handsome and jolly Prince.

His uncle wished Prince Murat to marry one of his cousins in Europe, but he fell in love with handsome Caroline Georgina Fraser of Bordentown. It was a pure love match. Her folks were opposed to him, but one afternoon the couple went for a drive, and going to Trenton, they were privately married by the Rev. Dr. Beasley, of St. Michael's Church. The Prince's affection for his excellent wife continued through life, though she often lectured him for his wild capers.

In 1848, when it looked bright in France for the Bonapartes, he borrowed some money and sailed over there, and soon sent for his family to join him. Later he sent money over to pay most of his debts.

When his cousin, Louis Napoleon, was chosen President of France, Murat was made Minister to Turin. In 1852 he became a Senator and the next year, when his cousin was made Emperor, he received the title of Prince of the family. He now had lots of money. When the war broke out between France and Prussia in 1870, although 67 years old, he joined the army and was captured at Metz. The empire fell and Murat's income was cut off. He had \$200,000 which the Emperor had given him, and to prevent him from squandering it, his faithful wife sued in the courts for a separation of estate, and succeeded in saving enough so that they lived comfortably the rest of their lives. They both died in 1878.

They had six children, one dying in infancy and being buried in the Episcopal Church graveyard at Bordentown. A headstone at the grave bears the inscription: "Murat, December 20, 1844."

CHAPTER XIV

COMMANDER WILLIAM PEARSON OF THE OLD U. S. NAVY

The thirty years following the War of 1812 were the halcyon days of the old Navy. Its officers and men, proud of their gallant work with the Barbary Coast pirates and their wonderful success against the ships of Great Britain, the mistress of the seas, made them confident of their prowess. Many of them were not adverse to stalking the streets of foreign ports with a "chip on their shoulders." The least word would bring on a quarrel, especially with a "Britisher", and challenges and duels were not infrequent.

Among the young men of this section who learned under the victors of the War of 1812, was William Pearson, who was born in the old brick mansion which stands at the foot of Hobson Avenue, in the year of 1800, which mansion had been built by his grandfather, Isaac Pearson, in 1773.

William Pearson, Sr., father of the subject, was a prominent man, a member of the Assembly, and on the staff of Governor Ogden in 1813.

William Pearson, Jr. entered the U. S. Navy in 1817 as acting midshipman; became midshipman in 1826, and Commander in 1843, and during that time he served on the following vessels, several of which had had victorious careers in the War of 1812: Franklin, Independence, John Adams, Columbus, Hornet, Constellation, Falmouth and Marion.

William had an interesting career and left many mementos of his voyages. One of the most interesting was an invitation to the officers of the U. S. S. Marion, then at a British port, to attend the celebration of Queen Victoria's birthday and her marriage to Prince Albert. This was in 1840. In strong contrast was another paper, dated a few years later, being a copy of an order issued by Commander Pearson to his officers and men, enjoining them to careful practice in gunnery, etc., "in view of the strained relations now existing between the United States and Great Britain." This, of course, referred to the boundary dispute, when the cry was "Fifty-four forty or fight." This shook the nation in the 40's and referred to the question whether the line between the United States and British Columbia should be the 49th parallel or the 54th and forty minute line.

At the time of his death Commander Pearson was in command of the receiving ship "Union" at Philadelphia. He boarded for a time at the old White Horse Hotel, then kept

by George Vanness. He is buried in the Episcopal Church graveyard at Bordentown.

Commander Pearson was the great-great-great grandson of Robert Pearson, who was one of the first settlers in this township.

CHAPTER XV

LAURIE'S MILLS

One of the most beautiful bodies of water in this locality is the lake between White Horse and Yardville. It has been known as "French's Mills", "Laurie's Mills", "New Albion Mills", and other names for the past hundred and fifty years. Today it is known as Gropp's Lake.

The little but powerful stream that feeds the pond was originally called Murfin's Run, from Robert and John Murfin, who more than 260 years ago bought the land lying eastward of the stream from the proprietors of West Jersey, or Yorkshire Tenth. The present nondescript name of the little stream is Back Creek, but no one knows why it is so called.

In the year 1802 the present road from Yardville to Trenton was opened and in that year, the mill, so long known as Laurie's Mills, or Lowry's Mills, was built and called "New Albion Mills."

Albion is the ancient name of England. It is believed that the mill was built by Richard French, who was a man of means. In 1818 Joseph M. Laurie rebuilt the mill at great expense, and in his day it was probably the best in the county. There were three sets of burrs, the merchant burr being seven feet in diameter, with all the necessary old-time apparatus.

The stream below the mill was lined on each side with huge storm walls for some distance, and the creek was dug out all the way to its mouth, so as to admit the passage of scows laden with grain that was brought up the Crosswicks Creek in larger vessels to the landing near the drawbridge, and then unloaded into the scows. Huge rafts of logs brought up the Crosswicks Creek were cut up in sections and drawn up the little stream to the foot of the mill for the sawmill, and much money was spent and many men employed in and about Laurie's Mills.

About the year 1828 Joseph M. Laurie was succeeded by the firm of Coates and Wilson. They also did a flourishing business, using large quantities of grain brought up the stream in scows, and the saw mill was run to its fullest capacity. Coates and Wilson were succeeded by Peter Shreve of Bordentown, but the property was owned by a man named Dickinson, of Trenton, and a long drawn-out law suit took place, and the mill was finally sold at Sheriff's sale and bought by Richard and Samuel Jacques, brothers. Nelson Petty of Cranbury ran the mill. Richard Jacques was the first Sheriff of Mercer County.

Ira Johnson was the next owner and operator of the old mill, and he sold it to David S. Hutchinson, who operated it longer than any other person. Trouble, vexation and great expense, caused from time to time by the breaking of the dam, and the great washouts, were the bane of the operators of the mill. One end of the dam gave way in the time of Coates and Wilson, and there was a break while Jacques Brothers owned it. It also broke during Ira Johnson's ownership, but the greatest loss was sustained by Mr. Hutchinson. The worst washout occurred a few years after the Civil War, when a house went down and great fissures were cut across the road. While the dam broke several times, never did the grim walls of the old mill give way and turbulent waters rushed it in vain.

The last operator of the mill was John B. Kirby, who was a well-known and successful miller.

Today there is no trace of the old mill, but Gropp's Lake is one of the beauty spots of the township, and the boating and bathing are enjoyed by thousands. The settlement surrounding the lake is known as Lakeside Park.

CHAPTER XVI

THE BEAR SWAMP

The big tract of land and swamps lying north of Miry Run and east and south of the Assanpink and reaching well up to Lawrence Station and Quaker Bridge, was once a gloomy place. No doubt it was once full of bears, wild cats and deer, but the wild animals have long since disappeared and the last deer was killed in 1828.

The earliest mention of this tract is in a deed to Mahlon Stacy in 1687 for 1,000 acres, described as being on a little creek running into the Assanpink, bounded by the Shabbaconk and "a great and hideous swamp." This tract originally included all of the land north of Hutchinson's Mills and some beyond the Assanpink along the Shabbaconk Creek. About the time of the Revolution most of this same tract came into the possession of the Coleman family, and they also owned some of the Quaker Bridge end of the swamp. In 1769 three hundred acres along the south part of the swamp was owned by a Philadelphian, and another 600 acres was owned by Anthony Morris.

The cutting through of the road that leads to the Whitehead Rubber Mill robbed the south part of the swamp of some of its gloom. Later, the making of the road from south of Quaker Bridge to Lawrence Station helped the northern section. Still it was a dismal place and folks who went there to pick huckleberries always kept in sight of the road.

Many "spooky" stories have been related about the Bear Swamp. It was said that during the Revolution a family hid on a little knoll, or island, within its gloomy depths, to escape the plundering Hessians. Another story tells of a man who took a walk through the swamp and was lost for a week before he could find his way back to a road.

During the Civil War the railroad was cut through the heart of this vast wasteland, and when wood-burning engines were used many fires broke out in the swamp, which only a heavy rain could extinguish. During the coal strike of the early 1900's many inquiries were made as to whether the peat in the Bear Swamp could be used for fuel, but a man who was familiar with Irish peat said the swamp peat was not practical. Yet it used to burn and smoulder for weeks until flooded by rains, and the railroad company paid damages to the owners.

Much of the Bear Swamp was simply a heavily-wooded tract that needed draining, and the greater portion of it has become fine farming land. Only a small part of the "great and hideous swamp" of 1687 is really bad, and in due time all of it will, undoubtedly, be brought under cultivation.

CHAPTER XVII

THE MERCER COUNTY COURT HOUSE

The County of Mercer was erected by Act of the Legislature of New Jersey upon the 22nd day of February, 1838.

This Act provided that the county buildings should be in Nottingham Township. Now came the task of selecting a place for the new Court House. A large number of voters wished to see it erected as near the center of the county as possible. It was held that the locality of Quaker Bridge, where General Washington and his troops crossed the Assanpink Creek the night before the Battle of Princeton, was about the center of the new territory, and a petition was drawn up setting forth the advantages of this locality, and fixing a price upon the place known as Abner Hughes' corner, about a mile south of the bridge. This was then near the heart of what was known as "The Barrens", and the advocacy of this location for the site of a Grecian temple of Justice no doubt brought smiles to the faces of the opponents of the site. But the petitioners were in earnest and a public meeting was advertised to be held on the spot. Christopher S. Vannest, who lived on the Quaker Bridge farm, offered to donate \$1,000 toward the expense of the buildings, if located there, and a large number of persons attended the meeting. Among those coming from Trenton was Colonel Halstead, a prominent lawyer of the city. After viewing the ground and listening to the talk in favor of the site, Halstead said that the proper place for the county building was at Trenton, where the lawyers lived. John S. West, a prominent township official, told Halstead that it was to the best interests of the people to get the Court House as far away from the lawyers as possible. To this thrust at his profession Halstead retorted, "Where the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together."

White Horse and Nottingham Square also wanted the county seat, but the strongest combination selected Mill Hill, and when the vote was taken the majority declared in favor of that place. At that time Mill Hill was in Nottingham Township, just south of the Assanpink Creek, and the Court House was built on the corner of what is now known as Broad and Market Streets.

It is interesting to speculate that if the county buildings had been erected in our township near Quaker Bridge, the center of population would, undoubtedly, be in that locality, and not as close to the city line as at present.

CHAPTER XVIII

FORMATION OF THE TOWNSHIP

The original tract of land of which Hamilton Township is now a part was bounded on the north by the Assanpink Creek, on the south by the Rancocas Creek, on the east by the Province Line, and on the west by the Delaware River. This tract was called "Yorkshire Tenth."

In the year 1686 the Township of Nottingham was formed of part of Yorkshire Tenth. It then included all of the present Hamilton Township, and all of Trenton south of the Assanpink Creek. The name NOTTINGHAM was given to the township by Isaac Watson, who came from Nottingham in old England.

The township bore the name of Nottingham from 1686 to 1842. An Act to establish a new township in the County of Mercer to be called the Township of Hamilton was passed by the Legislature on March 11, 1842; the actual division was made April 5, 1843.

The Township of Hamilton was formed of the greater part of Nottingham, leaving as Nottingham all south of the Assunpink Creek west of the canal. The portion known as South Trenton was annexed to Trenton proper in 1851, and the balance of Nottingham was annexed to Hamilton Township, giving it its present area of 40 square miles, and making it one of the largest townships in New Jersey.

Through the years there has been much speculation as to why the new township was named "Hamilton." There is nothing in township records to show why the name was adopted and while some believe it was named for Alexander Hamilton, there is no documentary proof to substantiate this.

From 1842 to 1911 the name "Nottingham" was lost. The late Joseph H. West, of Hamilton Square, petitioned the Township Committee to name the main street through the village of Hamilton Square "Nottingham Way." This was done on December 27, 1911 and later, when Mercer County took over the maintenance of this thoroughfare, the name of Nottingham Way was given to what had long been known as the Trenton-Allentown Turnpike, extending from the Trenton City line to the Monmouth County line. Later, various organizations, mostly in the Hamilton Square section, adopted the name, and we have the Nottingham Fire Company, Nottingham Chapter No. 246, Order of the Eastern Star, and the Nottingham Building and Loan Association.

The township has borne the name of Hamilton for 112 years, but that name has no association with its early history.

GEOGRAPHY OF THE TOWNSHIP

Hamilton is the most southerly township in Mercer County. The city of Trenton and Lawrence Township form its northern boundary. It is bounded on the east by West Windsor and Washington Townships and by Monmouth County. Burlington County is the southern boundary, and on the west it is bounded by the city of Trenton and the Delaware River.

On the north the Assunpink Creek separates Hamilton Township from Trenton and Lawrence Township. The Crosswicks Creek is the dividing line between Hamilton Township and Burlington County, and the Delaware River on the west separates it from adjacent Pennsylvania.

Hamilton Township is crossed by several streams. Miry Run and Pond Run, tributaries of the Assunpink, and Back Creek and Doctor's Creek meander across the township.

CHAPTER XIX

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

Old Nottingham—its history and glamor—its joys and sorrows—has faded into the shadows of the past—and a new era dawns.

It's 1842—the year Hamilton Township was created, the actual division taking place on April 5, 1843.

The first Township Committeemen were: Enoch Middleton, Enoch Knowles, John H. Rulon, James Coleman and Wolaston Piedman. The first Tax Collector was William S. West, and he was bonded for \$1,000. There were no bond or insurance companies in those days to scramble for the Township's business, so Mr. West gave his bond for \$1,000 with Benjamin South and John H. Rulon as sureties.

The first meeting of the Township Committee was held on April 13, 1843 at John Ginglin's Hotel, Sand Hills.

These first Committeemen took their duties very seriously—and well they might! They had a budget to raise. On that date, April 13, 1843, it was resolved that two thousand five hundred dollars be raised by taxation for the use of the Township for that year. The money to be raised was to cover road maintenance, relief of the poor, and to pay for sheep killed by dogs. One of the chief items to worry the early Committeemen was the amount paid out for sheep killed by dogs. This amount ranged from \$51.12 in 1843 and reached a peak of \$235 in 1861. The Township budgets from 1843 to 1861 ran from \$2,500 to \$7,500.

Among the names prominent in the early days of the Township were: Henry Tucker, James B. Coleman, George H. Stewart, Samuel F. Chambers, John West, Lewis Radford, James Anderson, William C. Sinclair, Israel J. Woodward, Alfred Mitchell, Marvel Shove, Samuel Wooley, Major Voorhees, William Tindall, Peter DeCou, John C. Cubberley, Joseph Hendrickson, Thomas F. Dye, Alex Eldridge, Clark Forman, Jeremiah Lalor, Caleb Coleman, Robert L. Hutchinson, Asher S. Cubberley, George S. Cook, Joseph Waln, Amos H. Lee, Thomas S. Parent, Moses Quigley, William Hughes, Daniel Ivins, George Hutchinson, Tilton Rogers and, of course, many others.

In order to care for the health of those who could not afford a physician, Dr. George R. Robbins, Sr. was appointed the first Township physician in April 1846, at a salary of \$35 a year. As he had very few indigent patients during the first year, the Committee reduced his salary to \$30 for the next year.

Back in the early days of our history, it happened that sometimes a horse would be **borrowed** without the consent of the owner. This practice became so prevalent that in 1843 the Mercer County Detecting and Pursuing Society was organized as a protection against horse thieves. The first meeting was held in the old hotel in Sandtown and many of our citizens were members. The first President was James McGalliard, the Secretary James B. Coleman. The Society had no dues, but they were strict about members attending, and if they were absent or if they left the room during a meeting, fines were imposed, and in this way the organization was financed. Today this Society exists merely for social purposes and to relive past glory, and is humorously known as "The Horse Thieves."

From 1842 to 1860 the affairs in the new township pursued a normal course and all was quiet and tranquil in this area. These were the days of gracious living—that era of lavishness and hospitality that spread all over the country—those days of chivalry, now "gone with the wind."

Then came the dark days of 1861, when brother fought against brother that a nation, founded on the principles that all men are created equal, might live. These were troublesome days in our township. Most of the eligible young men enlisted at the outbreak of the war and later, when President Lincoln called for volunteers and each municipality was given a quota to raise, it was difficult for Hamilton Township to make up the required number. When the President issued his call for 300,000 volunteers on December 17, 1864, it cost the township \$74,525 to fill its quota. Bonds were sold to township residents in the amount of \$44,525 and \$30,000 was borrowed from Trenton banks. From then on the township budget began to soar.

It was brought up at a meeting of the Township Committee on July 28, 1864 that it would be a good idea to send two persons down to Camp Casey, Virginia, to look after the recruits and to see that they were properly mustered into the United States Service and accredited to Hamilton Township, Mercer County, New Jersey. Having already spent \$74,525 to procure the "volunteers," it seemed fitting and proper that a little more should be spent to make sure they were comfortable, so Samuel L. Vandegrift and William S. West were appointed to make the trip. The township minutes fail to record the result of their inspection.

At the intersection of Liberty Street and Hamilton Avenue is a section that was called Pond Run. In 1861 a large field, part of the Charles Skirm property, was the chosen site for a training camp for newly recruited Civil War soldiers. It was called "Camp Olden" in honor of Governor Olden. Nine

thousand Civil War soldiers were mustered in and were trained at Camp Olden. When the regiments marched down to Mercer-ville, a mile of their route was over the very path that was followed by General Washington and his half-clad and hungry troops on their march to Princeton in January 1777. As they marched to **build** the nation, the Boys in Blue, 84 years later, marched the same road to **save** it.

A gasoline station called Camp Olden is all that today would remind Hamilton Township folk that here was once the site of one of the largest military camps of the Civil War.

When the Civil War ended, life in the township returned to its normal course except, perhaps, in those homes where father, husband, son, or brother had given the last full measure of devotion.

By 1866 the population of the township had grown to such an extent that it was necessary to divide it into two polling districts.

In 1874 the assessed valuation of the township was \$1,723,450.

1876 was the Centennial year. The Township Committee consisted of Thomas F. Applegate, Edmond Everham, Benjamin Goldy, Ridgway Robbins and Amos H. Cole. Joseph H. West was the Township Clerk.

Our nation, the United States of America, was 100 years old, but our township was 198 years old at that time. For 98 years, from 1678 to 1776, this township had been ruled by kings and queens from across the sea—for 100 years the Stars and Stripes had been the symbol of its freedom, so on July 4, 1876 this locality, like all cities, towns and hamlets in the nation, celebrated the 100th anniversary of that freedom. The great Centennnial Exhibition opened in Philadelphia on May 10, 1876 and throughout the year the whole country celebrated.

The first Board of Health in the Township was organized April 15, 1880. Samuel M. Smith was elected President, Joseph H. West, Secretary, and Drs. Robbins and Hutchinson, Executive Committee.

The years 1889 and 1890 saw great improvements in the township. On April 24, 1889 the right of way was given to the Villa Park Improvement Co., its successors and assigns, to construct, maintain, and operate a horse-car railway in the township. The same permission was given to the Broad Street Land Association to operate a horse-car railway on Clinton Avenue and Cedar Lane.

On August 19, 1890 it was granted that the Trenton Horse Railroad Co., its successors and assigns, shall have the authority

and power to construct and lay, maintain and operate either a single or double horse railway track or tracks in Hamilton Township on East State Street and the Trenton and Allentown Turnpike, from Chambers Street to the grounds occupied by the Inter-State Fair Association, together with all necessary and proper turnouts, turntables, etc.

In 1900 the Township Committee was reduced from five to three members.

On April 10, 1900 the Midland Telephone & Telegraph Co. was granted consent of the Township Committee for the construction of telephone and telegraph lines, and on May 19, 1902 the Trenton and New Brunswick Railway Co. was given right to cross certain streets in the Township.

On July 16, 1902 the Township Committee granted permission to Eureka Council, Jr. O.U.A.M., of Hamilton Square, to erect a stone memorial near Quaker Bridge to mark the route of General Washington in his flank movement from Trenton to Princeton on the morning of January 3, 1777.

On August 19, 1902 the Delaware and Atlantic Telephone and Telegraph Co. was given the privilege of erecting poles, wires, cables, conduits, etc. in the township.

The first automobile appeared in the township in 1899 and in 1902, as now, speeding became a problem. An ordinance was passed on September 3, 1902, reducing the speed from 12 miles per hour to 8 miles per hour, with a fine of \$15 to \$20. Numerous complaints had been received by the Township Committee that automobiles were speeding through the township streets at ten miles per hour.

The Public Service Corporation was given permission to erect gas mains and an electric light system in Hamilton Township on July 14, 1903.

The tax rate in 1905 was \$1.30. On July 5, 1906 the City of Trenton was asked to furnish water mains to White Horse.

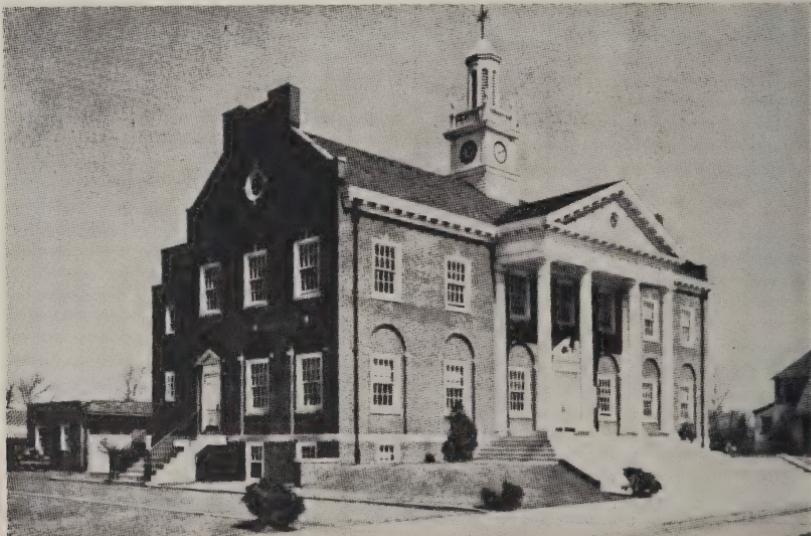
Owing to the growth in population, four election districts were necessary in 1908. In 1911 there were seven.

Down through the years the population of the township had been steadily increasing and industries had come into our midst, which helped greatly to increase the population. The earliest of these industries were the Mercer Rubber Co. at Hamilton Square, and the Whitehead Rubber Company, at Whitehead Manor. In 1842 John Whitehead & Sons began the manufacture of woolen goods in the Township. In 1873 the mills were converted into a factory for the manufacture of rubber goods, and that firm was succeeded by Whitehead Brothers, and today is known as Whitehead Rubber Company.

The Mercer Rubber Company was incorporated and began business in Hamilton Square in 1866.

In 1849 John A. Roebling founded the great firm that bears his name—John A. Roebling's Sons Co. This entire plant was located in Hamilton Township until 1872, when that portion of the Township south of the Delaware and Raritan Canal was incorporated into the Borough of Chambersburg. One plant of the Roebling Company is still located in the township.

At the turn of the century outside industrial development began and, because of the excellent shipping facilities, some of the largest manufacturing plants in the country are located in Hamilton Township. One of the early ones was the Trenton Oilcloth Co., which located on East State Street. This later became the Certain-Teed Products, which was merged with Sloane-Blabon, who built a huge plant in the Hutchinson's Mills section. This plant has recently been acquired by Congoleum-Nairn. Other plants on East State Street are the Acme-Hamilton Rubber Mfg. Co., Conner Millwork Co., Union Bag and Paper Co. and the Switlik Parachute Co. On the East State Street Extension are General Electric Co., Nearpara Rubber Co., Foster Yarn Co., Bayer Aspirin Co., L. A. Young Spring & Wire Co. The huge plant of the DeLaval Steam Turbine Co. is located in the township, as well as the National Radiator Co., Thermoid Rubber Co., Atlantic Products Co., and along the main line of the P.R.R. is the American Radiator



Hamilton Township Municipal Building.

& Standard Sanitary Corp., and, of course, many others throughout the township.

In 1914 a war broke out in Europe because a peasant shot an Archduke. At least, that was the excuse to start a war that had been in the offing for some time. At first it meant little to us, but the conflagration grew and when that great ship, the Lusitania, was sunk by a German torpedo in May of 1915, many believed it would not be long before we would be involved in the conflict. But by exchanging notes and other forms of pleasantries with Germany, this country managed to stave off a declaration of war until April 6, 1917, when the United States of America joined the side of the Allies and entered the World War. We mention this to pay tribute to the many young men of our Township who answered their country's call and fought for the principles which they believed to be right and just.

None of us, who were living on November 11, 1918, will ever forget that grand and glorious Armistice Day. A war to end all wars had been fought and won and, to all appearances, we entered into an area that was to be one of long and continued prosperity. We shared the affluent days of the Harding and Coolidge administrations. High wages—real estate booms—stock market speculations.

In 1929 our stately Municipal Building was dedicated, and for the first time, all the township offices were under one roof.



Hamilton Township Municipal Building showing addition erected in 1953.

Everyone was happy and carefree—shall we say, reckless—then came that dark day in October, 1929, when the stock market collapsed—followed by the depression of the 1930's.

We shared the dark days of the depression and weathered the storm and strife of those years. Some good came from it all—with Government aid, new roads and new schools were built. A two million dollar sewerage system was opened in 1941, and this has been added to until the present value of our sewage system is three and half million dollars.

Since 1900 the Township Committee had consisted of three members; in 1942 it was again raised to five and in the centennial year of our Township the Committeemen were John C. Biehl, Chairman, Armit A. Harrison, Harry Lieberman, John E. Pierson and Sterling Pettit.

To properly commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Township, a week of celebration was planned, with John C. Biehl as the General Chairman. Assisted by able committees the celebration opened with an historical pageant in Hamilton High School, and was climaxed by a huge parade.

This celebration was somewhat saddened, because another bitter time had come upon us—another time to "try men's souls." On December 7, 1941, we became embroiled in another World War and, as in all past wars, our young men answered their country's call and went forth to fight for the principles of freedom, and many did not return. The same is true of the Korean conflict, recently ended by a truce. Many of our young men took part in that "police action", and did not return. Hamilton Township is proud of its veterans and pays humble tribute to those who "gave their all."

Since 1942 Hamilton Township has grown by leaps and bounds. Many of the old farms—the plantations of old Nottingham Township—have been purchased by outside interests and are being developed as housing sites.

In 1950 the New Jersey Legislature enacted a law designating that the Chairman of each Township Committee should have the title of "Mayor", and George R. Holland was the first Mayor of Hamilton Township.

The present Township Committee is composed of Hervey S. Moore, Jr., Mayor, William J. Steiner, John E. Pierson, Edmund D. Blake and George R. Holland, Committeemen.

The population in this year of 1954 is, in round figures, 42,000, with 32 polling districts. There are 200 miles of paved streets, and the assessed valuation of the whole township is \$49,000,000, with a tax rate of over \$7.00 per hundred.

The present Township Clerk is Frank A. Priest, who has served in that capacity for 19 years. The Tax Collector, Harold

A. Sutterley, is serving his 24th year, and the Assessor, Frank J. Unger, is completing his 19th year.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Prior to the organization of a Police Department in 1926, the township's safety was in the hands of a group of special officers, with James E. Everett, of Mercerville, at the head.

In 1926 the present Police Department was organized. Richard P. Brettell was the first Chief and he served for 25 years, retiring in 1951. The present Chief is Thomas B. Simpson.

The first police ambulance was given to the township through the efforts of the Lions Club. The present ambulance was purchased by the Township.

The Police Department is equipped with cruiser cars with two way radio attachments, which work in conjunction with the city of Trenton and the adjoining townships.



Hamilton Township Police Headquarters.

FIRE COMPANIES

According to the old minutes of the township the first Fire District was created at Crosswicks March 10, 1879. For years there was little fire protection in the township, except the bucket brigades, but today there are nine splendidly equipped volunteer fire companies. They are the Nottingham, located at Hamilton Square; Mercerville; Hamilton (at Brom-

ley); Enterprise (on Klockner Road); Groveville; Colonial (Liberty Street); White Horse; Rusling (Broad Street Park), and DeCou (Ruskin Street).

The first volunteer fire company was the Rusling Hose Co., organized in 1886. The other fire companies were organized in later years.

In the early days of the fire companies, the church bells were used to summon the firemen, but today all of the fire houses are equipped with sirens, and their equipment of engines and pumps is of the latest designs. Hamilton Township is proud of its volunteer firefighters.



The Rusling Hose Co., the oldest fire company in the Township.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

There are two National banks in the Township. The Yardville National Bank was organized January 5, 1925, with Josiah T. Allinson, as President. John R. Hendrickson was the next President, followed by J. Roy Martin and Issac E. Bowers.

William A. Paxson, of Yardville, is the present head of this bank, and Stacy B. Lippincott is the Cashier.

The First National Bank of Hamilton Square was organized July 1, 1925, with Dr. F. M. Arthur as President and Wm. L. Briner, Jr. as Cashier. I. Ely Reed was named President after Dr. Arthur's death. Harvey E. Rogers followed Mr. Reed. Walter N. Updike is now President and Lester E. Robbins, the Cashier.



Yardville National Bank.



First National Bank Hamilton Square.

PARENT-TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS

All of the schools in the township have organized P.T.A.'s which work for the betterment of the school system and for the welfare of teacher and student.

LIBRARY

The Township Library was organized in 1923 and for two years Miss Mary Foster Freeman was the Librarian. Mrs.

David A. Grove became the Librarian in 1925, which position she still holds.

The main branch of the Library is located in the Township Municipal Building, with branches at Broad Street Park, Yardville and Hamilton Square. Also, there are Adult Centers at Crosswicks and Edgebrook.

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

Among the fraternal, social and service organizations in the township are the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Junior Order United American Mechanics, Gothic Lodge, F.&A.M., Order of the Eastern Star, Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Y.M.C.A., the Grange, the Fire Company Auxiliaries, and political clubs.

AMERICAN LEGION

There are two American Legion Posts in the township. Post No. 31 was organized by veterans of World War I in 1929, and the first meeting was held in Hamilton Square. Augustus E. Lilley was elected the first Commander, and Charles L. McCabe was named the first Adjutant.

In 1931 the Ladies Auxiliary was organized, with Mrs. William J. Steiner as President, and Mrs. H. H. Higgins, Secretary.

The headquarters of Post No. 31 is on Route 130 at the corner of the Hamilton Square-Crosswicks Road. This building was the former Edgebrook Schoolhouse, which the Legion purchased some years ago.

The second Legion Post is located at Broad Street Park, and is known as Post No. 313.

CHAPTER XX

CHURCHES

There is no record of any church in Nottingham Township until 1776, but it is a fact that religious services were held in the homes of the early settlers.

The Quakers attended services at the Meeting Houses in Crosswicks and at Stony Brook, near Princeton, and the Episcopalians thought nothing of driving to Burlington, to worship at old St. Mary's, or to Trenton for services at St. Michael's, which was erected in 1703. According to old records, the street in Hamilton Square, now called Mercer Street, was once known as the Crosswicks-Stony Brook Road, and was blazed through the woods by the Quakers going to and from their meeting houses at Crosswicks and Stony Brook.

In 1776 a Presbyterian Church was built at Nottingham Square. It stood on the opposite side of the street from the present church and was first known as "The Yellow Meeting House" and later as the Nottingham Church. In 1837 this was torn down and a new brick building was erected to the west of the old one. This building was considerably improved, but in



Groveville Methodist Church.

1867 it was demolished, and the present structure built on the north side of the road. The spire on this church was 120 feet high, and it was blown off in a wind storm on November 2, 1877. The present church has been added to and improved from time to time down through the years.

The Baptist Church at Nottingham Square was built in 1785. It was a frame building and stood to the west of the present one. The grave of the Rev. Searing Stites is on the spot over which the old church pulpit stood. The lot was given for the purpose by Abram Eldridge. The second church building was erected in 1851 and in 1866 the Baptistry was put in. Previous to this the rite of baptism was administered at J. I. Hutchinson's mill pond.

The present church building was dedicated in 1884.

The Methodist Church at Groveville was erected in 1836, and the original building is still in use, making it the oldest church building in the township.

The Methodist Church in Hamilton Square was erected in 1844, added to in 1949, and the Pearson Memorial Methodist Church at White Horse was built in 1858.

There are now churches of all denominations throughout the township. Besides those named, there are in the Broad Street Park section, Holy Angels Catholic, St. Mathias P. E., Memorial Baptist, Pilgrim Presbyterian, Seventh Day Adventist and Methodist. In the Bromley area, Bethel Lutheran and Jehovah's Witnesses. St. Anthony's Catholic is located on South Olden Avenue. On Liberty Street are the Chambers Methodist and the Colonial Community Church. There are Presbyterian churches in Yardville and Hutchinson's Mills. Mercerville has the Union Methodist, Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, and the Grace Episcopal churches. Forrest Valley has the Mt. Olivet Baptist and the St. Philip Baptist churches, and in White Horse are located the Grace Orthodox Presbyterian, St. Raphael Roman Catholic, and St. Mark's Lutheran.

CHAPTER XXI

SCHOOLS

The first Hamilton Township School District was organized July 13, 1894. It consisted of the following schools: Hamilton Square, Washington, Mercerville, Farmingdale, Edgebrook, Friendship (now Homedell), White Horse, Yardville and Groveville.

The first meeting of the trustees was held July 18, 1894. S. B. Hutchinson was chosen as President of the Board, and Joseph H. West, District Clerk, at a salary of \$90 a year. The first trustees were Edward P. Mount, Jasper H. Hughes, Joel H. Sprague, U. B. Titus, Joseph H. West, S. B. Hutchinson, John V. Clymer, Miller H. Cross, and Timothy Scobey.

What of the schools before that time? Prior to 1894 each community had its own school and it was under the supervision of the taxpayers of that locality. A small amount of money was contributed by the State, but most of the cost was borne by the citizens. It is impossible to secure exact dates, but it is known that schools existed at White Horse, Hamilton Square, Yardville, and Mercerville long before 1800.

The old school at White Horse was called the Maple Shade School because it stood way back from the road, up a long lane of maple trees.



Farmingdale School, the oldest elementary school building.

The first school at Hamilton Square was located on the White Horse-Hamilton Square Road, on what is now the John Scobey farm. The little red building stood there for many years and was later used as a tenant house. The next school was located where Hooper & McCabe's store now stands. This was later moved to the west of the present Baptist Church in what was called the tie-yard, and was used until 1851. School was taught for a while in the Odd Fellows Hall, and in 1857 a school was built at the eastern end of the village. This building is now a dwelling and is located on Nottingham Way, the home of Mr. George Bound.

The first school in Merverville was located on the Quaker Bridge Road, and is now used by the Union Methodist Church. This was known to have been used prior to 1858. Charles M. Hutchinson, Enos Bowne and John S. West were among the early trustees, and on April 11, 1868 it was resolved by these trustees that \$50 be raised by taxation for the use of the school, and it was further resolved that the trustees be authorized to borrow the sum of \$38.22 to erect a fence around the school yard. According to the records of 1867, the teacher at Merverville was paid \$85 per quarter, at the **end** of the quarter.

All of these schools were the typical one room school house of the day. The teacher's desk was up front and the desks for pupils, with benches for seats, were placed along three sides of the room, with a stove in the middle.

One of the interesting old schools of which we do have a record was the Washington School, which catered to the children in the northwest part of the township. The exact



Hamilton High School

date of the opening of this school has not been determined, but it is thought to be about 1815. This school building was 12 x 16 feet in size. School was held every day, Saturdays included. In 1860 the parents of the pupils at the Washington School decided that a new school house was needed, so the ladies held a harvest home to raise the money. Unfortunately, it rained, and only \$150 was raised. It was then agreed that each family should give \$10., and by several donations outside the district, and by doing much of the work and hauling the lumber and other materials, the new schoolhouse was built and paid for. In the years 1861-1864 many patriotic meetings were held in the Washington School and more than one pupil shouldered his gun and marched away with the Boys in Blue.

Dr. Richard R. Rogers, well-known Trenton physician of some years ago, attended this school as a boy, as did Dr. George R. Robbins, who later became County Clerk. It was the custom in those days, when a pupil misbehaved, to send him out for a switch and then whip him with it. Young George was quite mischievous and because of his deportment spent a great deal of time in cutting switches. In later years he delighted to tell of the time when he cut off a branch from a poison sumac tree, gave it to the teacher, received a few switches on the legs, and then stood in the corner for an hour. The teacher went on teaching, but failed to show up the next day, and inquiry revealed that he was suffering from sumac poison and the school was closed for a week. This school was torn down a few years ago, and pupils in that locality now attend the Mercerville School.

Another school that no longer functions as such is the Edgebrook School. The first school in that section was opened in 1839. It was called "the little schoolhouse", but one of the teachers named it "Edgebrook" because it stood near the banks of the little brook. In 1876 a new school was erected at the corner of the Hamilton Square-Crosswicks Road and Route 25 (now Route 130). This was used until a modern two-room brick building was built. This was abandoned in 1915 and the pupils transferred to schools at Yardville and Hamilton Square.



Joseph Steinert Memorial School, the newest elementary school.

This building is now the home of Hamilton Township Post No. 31, American Legion.

In the early days of the Edgebrook School, the teacher's salary was paid by the parents, the children chopped the wood, took care of the fire in winter, and cleaned the schoolroom. Each teacher taught all the grades, kept a dunce cap handy, and a bundle of switches in the corner.

The old Farmingdale school was built prior to 1858. This was a one-room structure located where the present school stands on Nottingham Way. In 1858 this was called the Allentown Turnpike. In that year Miss Sarah Darby was the teacher, at a salary of \$6.38 per week.

The first school house in Sand Hills (Yardville) was located on the tract of land purchased by the Yardville National Bank from the estate of the late Edith Tindall. It was a small one-story building, near the side of Crosswicks Road. The second school house was at the corner of Broad Street and the Hamilton Square Road; was first moved to a site on the Hamilton Square Road where the Presbyterian Manse now stands, and it was in that building, on the first floor, that the Yardville National Bank began business in 1925. This building was later moved farther down the road and converted into apartments. The third school was on the old Route 25, and has since been converted into apartments. The present modern school building is on the Allentown Road.

From 1894 on the school system in Hamilton Township began to improve and gradually the old buildings disappeared and modern new ones were erected. The first Supervising Principal was Mr. A. O. McDonald, the second James W. Alexander, and the present Supervisor is Howard D. Morrison.

At the present time the township has 17 public elementary schools, DeCou, DeCou Primary, Farmingdale, Greenwood, Groveville, Hamilton Square, Homedell, Klockner, Kuser, Lalor,



St. Raphael's Parochial School, the newest parochial school.

Maple Shade, Mercerville, Rowan, Willey, Yardville, Yardville Heights, McGalliard, and two high schools—the Hamilton High and the Joseph Steinert Memorial. In addition, there are three Parochial schools—Holy Angels, St. Anthony's and St. Raphael's.

The township school system is now governed by a nine-man School Board, and the present members are Patrick C. Bush, President, Hugh W. Maguire, Jr., William B. Morgan, Albert J. Gater, Jr., Charles W. Blakesley, Hans M. Peterson, Charles P. McQuade, Edward J. Phelan and Joseph A. Jansen.

CHAPTER XXII

THE WEATHER

Weather, of course, is not peculiar to our Township, but these comments from the diary of the late Joseph H. West may prove interesting.

February 9, 1875 was the coldest day ever remembered by the older citizens. One man drove six miles and his ears were frozen. In fact, the months of January and February were unusually severe, not so much snow but the whole countryside was a glare of ice, making it difficult to walk for weeks. The cold was steady and severe—at one time the thermometer was 11 below zero.

Snow fell on October 15, 1876, and on the 16th ice was three quarters of an inch thick.

On November 2, 1877 a hurricane struck certain parts of the township, Hamilton Square suffering the most damage. The tall spire of the Presbyterian Church was hurled to the ground, trees were uprooted, buildings unroofed and windows broken. The wind, in about three minutes, did over five thousand dollars worth of damage.

Up to February 2, the year 1878 was very mild—very little snow and not much cold weather, but then a two-day snow storm arrived and made fine sleighing.

On October 23, 1878 another wind storm struck the township and many trees were uprooted and buildings blown down.

On December 30, 1880 the thermometer stood at 10 below zero, and on January 1, 1881, it was 14 below. There was continuous sleighing from December 27, 1880 to February 1, 1881. According to the old timers of that day, they had never known as much steady cold and so much good sleighing.

March 11, 1888—the beginning of the great blizzard, when snow fell to the depth of from three feet to fifteen feet.

(The total cost to the Township to clear the roads after the blizzard of 1888 was \$948.82.)

The old diary states that Christmas Day, 1889, was the mildest ever remembered. The sunshine was perfect and the air as balmy as a May day. A few days afterwards the frogs were heard, and on January 2, 1890, they were very lively. On January 7, violets were in bloom and the writer states, "I picked some and put them in the Bible."

The Winter of 1893 was very cold—and so it goes—we hear folk say that the weather is changing, but it's still the same old weather.

CHAPTER XXIII

MEMORIAL DAY

The decoration of soldiers' and sailors' graves, known as Memorial or Decoration Day, was first observed in this township at Hamilton Square on May 30, 1878. This observance was originated by the late Joseph H. West and has continued in the Township down through the years.

The first Memorial Day was a rainy one, but six little girls carrying flowers, accompanied by several public spirited men, visited the four cemeteries in the village and placed flowers and flags upon the graves of the Revolutionary and Civil War veterans. Only a few people gathered on this first Memorial Day. A prayer was made by the Rev. Schenck, of the Presbyterian Church, and after the graves were decorated, the benediction was given by the Rev. Case, of the Baptist Church.

Since that first rainy day, the celebration has grown to huge proportions throughout the Township. Hamilton Square, Mercerville, White Horse, Yardville and Groveville all have huge parades, complete with bands, floats, etc., followed by refreshments, sports and recreation of all kinds.

CHAPTER XXIV

THE FASHION STUD FARM

The section of the township now known as Bromley was once the Fashion Stud Farm of the noted Wall Street broker and multi-millionaire, Henry N. Smith. His first purchase of land was 80 acres from the Central Agricultural Society, and he added to it until he was the owner of some 500 acres, the tract extending from East State Street almost to Hamilton Avenue.

In addition to modernizing the old farm house into a handsome country residence, Mr. Smith built an elaborate Club House, complete with cupola. A race track, stables, and grandstands were built about 1872, and to this track and Club House came the great and near great of that day. Mr. Smith was associated with Jay Gould in Wall Street and he was a frequent visitor to the Fashion Stud Farm. Old records recall the splendid spectacle of Mr. Smith and his coach-and-four trotting down the Allentown Turnpike, accompanied by Mr. Gould, and other noted financiers. In 1873 the stables and grandstands were destroyed by fire and twenty-eight thoroughbred horses were burned, two of them belonging to President Ulysses S. Grant.

Mr. Smith was the owner of the famous trotter, Goldsmith Maid, who earned \$364,000 for her owner. She died at the Farm and was buried there, and in 1926 a monument was erected over the grave by John L. Kuser. Through the years the monument disappeared, and in 1948 the New Jersey State Fair Association unveiled a new monument on the Fair Grounds to this famous horse.

After Mr. Smith's financial collapse in Wall Street, he made his home at the Fashion Stud Farm until his death. Some years later the Kuser family bought about 200 acres of the Fashion Stud Farm. The old Club House was moved to the intersection of East State Street and Whitehead Road and became known as Hotel Hamilton. In time it became disreputable and was torn down about 1933. Mr. Smith's children formed the Bromley Place Land Association, and developed practically all of the Bromley Section. The first outside land developer to come into the Township was Mr. Edmund C. Hill, of Trenton, who purchased part of the Stud Farm and developed what he called Bromley Place. Later, land across Greenwood Avenue was bought by the H. J. Miller Realty Co., who developed Bromley Manor.

The Kuser family built the homes on Victor and Adella Avenues, and much of the acreage was sold for factory sites. The old farm house which Mr. Smith made into his country home became dilapidated through the years, and was torn down when the apartment developments known as Warner Village and Nottingham Village were erected.

The Hamilton Township Municipal Building is located on land which was once part of the Fashion Stud Farm, but there is nothing in the Township today to remind one of the glory that was once Henry Smith's.

CHAPTER XXV

THE NEW JERSEY STATE FAIR

In the year 1745 King George, the second, of England, granted a Royal Charter to the Borough of Trenton, and that charter, among other things, granted the right to hold market days and fairs.

The early fairs were held in Trenton and were mostly livestock exhibits. The Legislature in 1797 passed a law forbidding all fairs, and for the next fifty years or more no fairs were held in Trenton or its vicinity.

In 1858 the State Agricultural Society held a fair on South Broad Street, Trenton, and in 1866 they purchased some land on the Allentown Turnpike, and fairs were held there until 1871, when the grounds were sold to Henry N. Smith, who established the Fashion Stud Farm. There were no fairs from 1871 until 1885, when the Mercer County Board of Agriculture held its first fair on South Broad Street near Hamilton Avenue.

Among those who visited that fair was John Taylor, a prominent Trenton business man. He was first Vice President of the Board of Trade, and the chief figure in the establishment of the Taylor Opera House. John Taylor felt that Trenton could and should support a real fair, and contacted some of the leading business men of Trenton and vicinity and discussed the matter with them. These men were F. W. Roebling, Ralph Ege, Elijah C. Hutchinson, William S. Hancock, Henry Kelsey, Anthony Kuser, Richard A. Donnelly, Jonathan H. Blackwell, Charles May, John H. Scudder, H. S. Henry, Albert Brewer, George Howell, John Sutphen and John G. Muirhead. Thus, the nucleus of the Inter-State Fair was formed. Mr. Taylor was the first President and Elijah C. Hutchinson, from our Township, the first Secretary. In 1900 Mahlon Margerum became Secretary and directed its activities for forty years.

In 1936 Mr. George A. Hamid, internationally-known director of fairs and other enterprises in the entertainment world, took over the management of the Inter-State Fair Association. It became known as the New Jersey State Fair, and under Mr. Hamid's able direction many improvements and innovations have taken place.

The original tract of land on which the fair was started was purchased from the Henry Smith estate, but through the years additional land has been bought from the Swain family and the Rogers family, and now the Fair grounds extend from Nottingham Way through to the East State Street Extension, and from humble beginnings the New Jersey State Fair is now one of the largest in the country.

CHAPTER XXVI

THE VILLAGES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP AND THEIR HISTORIES

The first roads were nothing more than paths through the wilderness and went in any convenient direction, so as to come as near as possible to each of the scattered dwellings, and it seems that wherever two roads crossed, a settlement sprang up. Hamilton Township is dotted over with many such settlements, some of which are now included in larger neighboring settlements and, therefore, have lost their identity. There was, for example, Dog Town. It was so named because of the large number of dogs kept by the Quigley family who lived there. It was merely a small cluster of homes on the road from White Horse to Mercerville. One section of the township was long known as Lamberton, named for John Lambert, who early settled here. This is now a part of Trenton. There was a place called Phillips Ford, near Hutchinson's Mills.

The major divisions of the Township today are: Broad Street Park, White Horse, Yardville, Groveville, North Crosswicks, Hamilton Square, Mercerville, Bromley, Hutchinson's Mills and Lakeside Park.

In the extreme southern end of the township is Extonville. This was once a thriving settlement, with a grist mill, a woolen and cotton mill, and a carpet-warp manufacturing plant. There was also a blacksmith shop, eight dwellings and a store. Today only a couple of houses remain in this once thriving little village.

A residential section lying between Liberty and Redfern Streets is called Homedell. Between Broad Street Park and White Horse the developments known as Colonial Manor and DeCou Village have sprung up in recent years. The section lying between St. John's Cemetery and Riverview Cemetery is known as Deutzville. Duck Island lies wholly within our Township, and this once desolate, swampy island, where only trappers went for muskrats and skunks, is now a flourishing business area. Lamberton Road runs through the island and on the river side are the huge plants of the Atlantic, Gulf, Sun, and Trenton Oil Companies. In the Hutchinson's Mills area there is Cornell Heights, and adjacent to the Whitehead Rubber factory is a settlement called Whitehead Manor. Adjoining Yardville is Yardville Heights.

The old farms are rapidly being sold to real estate developers and each development takes on a new name, but each is a part of a nearby village.

The settlement once known as Quaker Bridge has been taken over by the State and is now a game and bird sanctuary. A history of the larger and older villages follows.

BROAD STREET PARK

Some of the early settlers erected their homes in what is now called Broad Street Park. The Watson House, oldest house in Mercer County, is located here, also Bow Hill and the Lacey Abbott home. Broad Street Park owes its early expansion to Andrew K. Rowan; to Colonel James Rusling, and to E. S. Willey.

Mr. Rowan owned much land in this section and sold it for home sites. He saw the place develop into a colony of homes and was proud of the improvement. He had no little part in the widening of Broad Street, or the White Horse Road, as it was once called, to its present splendid dimensions. Originally a toll gate stood at Cedar Lane, but when the street was widened, the toll gate was moved, and the 100 foot wide boulevard runs to White Horse.

Andrew K. Rowan was called "Kinzie" by his friends, but little is known of his family. He would never talk about himself, except to say that he spent his early days near Mercerville. His resemblance to the Bonapartes was a matter of pride to him and, as he was born during the time that Joseph Bonaparte resided at Bordentown, there was always much speculation about his birth.

Mr. Rowan amassed a fortune during the Civil War on government contracts, including the purchase and sale of cavalry horses. He gave his money freely to many worthy causes. He was a prominent Methodist and gave much money for missionary causes, making a trip to Africa to visit the mission stations. His home was on Broad Street, a large mansion type house well set back from the street. Mr. Rowan offered it to the Methodists as a home for the aged, but as money for maintenance was not available, the offer was not accepted. Later the mansion was moved to the corner of Lafayette and Park Avenues, and the spacious grounds cut up into building lots.

The Rowan School keeps alive the name of Andrew K. Rowan in the locality he once dominated.

The Willey School was named in honor of E. S. Willey, who continued the development of this area, as did Colonel Rusling, of Trenton, who bought land and sold it as building lots. The Rusling Hose Co. is named in his honor.

Broad Street Park was the home of Dr. Charles C. Abbott, distinguished not only in the Township but all over the country.

His home known as the "Three Beeches", stood on his farm which adjoined the Watson house. Dr. Abbott was a famous naturalist and archaeologist. As a naturalist he wrote many books on the subject of nature. As an archaeologist he was active in the excavations on his property which led to the discovery of many Indian relics. The old Abbott homestead was destroyed by fire in 1913 and Dr. Abbott passed away in 1919. All that is left today to remind one of the learned and energetic Dr. Abbott are two of the three original beech trees from which the homestead derived its name.

One of the finest amusement centers in this section of the State was once located here. White City Park! The scenic railway and the chute-the-chutes down into the sparkling lake were considered among the finest rides of this character in the East. There were the merry-go-round, bands playing, barkers along the midway ballyhooing their attractions, couples dancing on the spacious dance floor, lovers strolling along the shaded paths—such are the scenes of gaiety revived in the memory of those who enjoyed diversion in this once flourishing amusement park off South Broad Street. The grounds extended along McClellan Avenue, from Sewell to Buchanan, but nothing remains of the buildings except the old mansion house opposite the entrance at the foot of Harrison Avenue. The once beautiful lake is little more than a swamp today. Also, in the Broad Street Park section there was located, a few decades ago, the Pitman race track, where trotting horses were trained. Hamilton High School and Athletic Field are now located on a part of the Pitman farm. The more than century old home on the farm is now occupied by Dr. Armour C. Wood, adjoining which he has erected his Cat & Dog Hospital.

Many outside developers have come to this section and it is now difficult to tell where Broad Street Park ends and White Horse begins. Homes and business establishments cover the old-time plantations of the early settlers.

WHITE HORSE

In 1883 White Horse was described as "A cross road settlement in the southern part of Hamilton Township, on the elevation overlooking the Crosswicks Creek." To this section of our township came the first white settlers, and the first home of which we have a record was built by Robert Pearson, the second, in 1706, on the bluffs of the Creek. This dwelling was called South Hill. There was considerable activity in and around this section during the early days. In 1740 a tannery was established along the Crosswicks Creek by John Abbott, which was operated until 1840. The large stone millwheel

from the old tannery now covers an old well beside the White Horse Tavern.

The early settlers crossed the Creek at a ford, known as Watson's Ford, but long before the Revolution a bridge with a draw in it was built over the Creek near White Horse. The traffic up the Crosswicks Creek was considerable, even in early times. Not far from there was a wharf, known as Pearson's Landing, and for a time this section was known as Pearson's Landing and Draw Bridge. By 1774 the bridge and draw became unsafe, and a new bridge with a draw that could be raised was built. This was used until 1835, when the old covered bridge was erected.

The intersection of the road from Princeton to Bordentown with the road from Trenton to Crosswicks and points eastward, no doubt soon suggested itself as a good place for a public house, and in 1765 an inn was erected at this point. John Satterley was its first proprietor and, according to tradition, he named his inn "White Horse" because General George Washington passed there one day mounted on his white charger. Mr. Satterley procured a sign on which was painted a figure on a white horse. However the name originated, it is certain that the innkeepers kept a white horse on the sign for many years. An advertisement dated in 1815 refers to the tavern as "Benjamin South's Hotel", but this does not signify



The White Horse Tavern from an old photograph.

that the old place was not known as White Horse at the time.

During the Revolution stirring events took place near the old hotel. Down the road from Trenton and over the draw-bridge hurriedly galloped the British Light Horse to escape being captured with the Hessians at Trenton. It was near the hotel that Samuel Tucker, the State Treasurer, was captured, and held under parole by Robert Pearson until the British should demand him.

John Satterley was the innkeeper during the Revolution, and he was succeeded by Benjamin South. Mr. South was a popular boniface and he was there for forty years. At the time of the War of 1812 and later exhibitions of prize horses, cattle and sheep were held at South's Tavern.

Mr. South enlarged the original building, and down through the years it has been altered several times. South was succeeded in 1830 by Joshua Hollingshead. While here Mr. Hollingshead was elected Sheriff of Burlington County. Hollingshead was succeeded by James Risdan. It was at this old hotel that Prince Murat was a frequent visitor. The Prince spent a great deal of time here with his cronies and was a popular fellow.

The next innkeeper was George Vannest; then came Streat King, followed by William King, which brings the history of the old inn to the Civil War period.

To the discredit of the old hostelry it is said that once during the Civil War a "Secesh" flag was hung out and that a party from Trenton came out and ordered it removed which order was obeyed.

John Taylor was the next proprietor, followed by Patrick McKenna, and then Thomas McKenna. Henry Hendrickson was next and remained until his death in 1878. Thomas J. Parent succeeded Mr. Hendrickson, and he was followed by Andrew Gropp. Today the proprietor is Walter Gropp, son of Andrew Gropp. In 1950 during some alterations in the barroom an oil painting came to light. The old ceiling had been papered several times and then painted over the paper. In taking off the layers of paper this painting was uncovered. It is the head and shoulders of a man, and bears a striking resemblance to General Washington. Many art experts and others have viewed this painting, but no light has been shed as to whom the artist might have been or when this painting was executed on the ceiling.

White Horse today is a community of homes and much of its development can be accredited to the late William V. McGalliard. In 1903 he began the development of the farm on which he was born and called it McGalliard's Acre Lots. Mr. McGalliard also built the first water system in the town-

ship, which furnished water for the homes on his tract. The new school just completed on the Olden Avenue Extension has been named the McGalliard School in his memory.

Another resident of the White Horse area was Mrs. Martha DeCou, affectionately called "Aunt Martha". Mrs. DeCou contributed generously to the civic betterment, and the DeCou School and Fire Company were named in her honor. Mrs.



Face painted on the ceiling of the White Horse Hotel.

DeCou's home was the old brick mansion built by Lacey and Sally Abbott in 1797.

LAKESIDE PARK

Between White Horse and Yardville, around Groppe's Lake, lies the village of Lakeside Park. This section was developed by the late Charles G. Teunon, of Trenton, and was at first a summer colony, but is now a thriving permanent community.

Lakeside Park, for many years, was known as Lowry's Mills, named for the man who operated a grist mill there prior to 1800. Remains of the old mill were visible until the new concrete bridge was erected in 1931.

One of the last toll gates to exact fees from those using the highways was located at Lakeside Park.

The civic-minded residents of Lakeside Park erected a concrete spillway at a cost of approximately \$7,000 when, in the winter of 1914-1915, an ice jam carried away the flood gates at the dam.

YARDVILLE

Yardville, on Doctor's Creek, near its junction with the Crosswicks Creek, was formerly known as Sand Hills, and received its present name from John Yard, who was the first postmaster at Yardville.

Samuel Overton is believed to be one of the first to settle here in 1690, for at that time the Overton Estate consisted of 300 acres or more, and was located in this neighborhood. Crosswicks Creek in the early days had a utilitarian value. It turned the wheels for the industries of the early settlers; grain was ground, lumber cut in proper lengths and many other uses were derived from the moving waters. The grist mill and the saw mill were flourishing industries. Logs were towed up the Delaware to Bordentown on rafts and then floated at high tide to this mill. When the logs were cut they were placed in a large lumber yard, and later carted by teams to Trenton and nearby points.

A wharf near the mouth of the Creek was surrounded with considerable importance for the community. It was first called Watson's Ford, later "The Old Landing." The road leading to the wharf was called Old Landing Road, and is now known as Martin's Lane. From this wharf sloops and barges left for Philadelphia, loaded with flour, lime, pork and other products of the village. The lime was shipped from kilns located on the Bordentown Road known as "Hog Back." The oyster shells were brought from the shore in sheet-top wagons. Across the road from the kilns was the only store in the community, back of which was a perfectly shaped elevation known as "Sugar Loaf Hill." Tradition has it that this hill

was constructed by the mound builders. Some years ago the hill was removed and the earth used in building the new road.

It was through this village that the first stage coach lines passed, and later tracks were laid here for the first railroad in New Jersey.

What difference in travel! Romance went hand in hand with the stage coach. A man, stationed in a tower near the corner of Allentown Road, heralded the approach of the stage coach by ringing a bell. The residents would then bustle from their homes, sort out their own mail, and then retire to their homes again to pore over the letters and papers.

The railroad did away with the stage coach. It was over this line, starting from "Mile Hollow" near Bordentown and terminating at South Amboy, that the famed "John Bull" engine ran. When the engine outlived its usefulness it was placed in the National Museum at Washington. In 1891 the Pennsylvania Railroad erected a huge stone at Mile Hollow commemorating this event, surrounding the stone with a section of the original rails.

When the Camden-Amboy Railroad was first put into operation, passengers for Trenton came as far as Yardville and were thence conveyed to Trenton by stage.



Beck Homestead, Yardville

Yardville is the rich possessor of old homes which have figured prominently in the history of the village. One of the oldest is the Beck homestead. This was built by John Taylor in 1769, and was sold to John A. Beck. The property consisted of 212 acres and was sold for \$12.50 an acre. This house was erected of bricks made nearby and from lumber sawed at a mill near Edgebrook. The trowel marks are still visible and the figures "1769" are imbedded in the gable end of the house. This old home is today the residence of Mr. Harry A. Fringer.

It is not known just when the old hotel was built, but no doubt there was a hotel there from the time it had a dozen houses, for rum was considered a panacea for most ills and all small settlements had a village inn or tavern. However, we can only follow the history of the present hostelry back to 1825, when John Nelson was there. He was succeeded by John Longstreet, and in 1833 it was purchased by John Ginglen. Mr. Ginglen was one of the most popular men who ever held forth at his old inn. He was there about fifteen years, and was a jolly, good-natured man, ready to do a kindly act at all times. About 1848 he quit the hotel business and became a prosperous farmer. Michael Nelson ran the hotel for a short time; then came Moses Johnson, who was a brother-in-law of John Ginglen. He kept the hotel for more than forty years and his days there were the halcyon days of the old hotel. He was known by all as "Uncle Mo" and his wife was "Aunt Han." She was famous for her excellent dinners, and in the days when the business meetings of the Township Committee were held in the various hotels throughout the township and the dinners were paid for out of public funds, this hotel got more than its share of the business because of Aunt Han's dinners.

Moses Johnson died about 1890 and the hotel was acquired by Charles Zwirlein, who spent a great deal of money in improving and modernizing the old place. The next proprietor was Michael Buddy; then Charles Seigle, known as "Poor Charlie". The present owner and proprietor is Maskill Paxson who keeps up the old tradition of serving excellent food.

The once famous Springdale Park is located at Yardville. This was part of the old Beck estate and was known for a time as "Beck's Woods." For many years this was a center for picnics, harvest homes, and camp meetings.

Yardville, like its neighbor, White Horse, is a fast-growing community. The famous New Jersey Turnpike crosses our township between Yardville and Crosswicks.

GROVEVILLE

About a half mile from Yardville on Doctor's Creek is the village of Groveville. Settlements were made here at an early date and its original name was "Locust Grove." In 1821 there was a small woolen and grist mill, a saw mill, a store, all the property of one John Longstreet, and fifteen dwellings. In 1821 George Green and Churchill Huston purchased from Longstreet all of this hamlet, except two or three houses, and built a mill three stories high and 120 feet long, for the manufacture of satinets. It contained fifty power looms and gave employment to about fifty people. In 1837 it was destroyed by fire, the saw and grist mill burning at the same time.

Groveville was once noted for the mince-meat manufactured there by the Borden family. In 1887 Edward Borden, a Civil War veteran, began making mince-meat in the back of his grocery store. The demand for it increased so greatly that he built a factory, which his sons and grandsons operated for many years.

Today, Groveville is essentially an industrial community. The industries located there are the Anchor Thread Co., Mercer Textile Mills, Groveville Cabinet Works, Wm. J. McElmoyle Co., and the Crosswicks Sand and Gravel Co.

Like other township communities, modern homes are springing up all around it and one of the latest land developments is known as Groveville Gardens.

NORTH CROSSWICKS

North Crosswicks is a village on the Crosswicks Creek, the southern part of the village being in Burlington County. The portion of the hamlet lying within the township of Hamilton was early known as Woodwardsville in honor of Samuel Woodward, who was once prominent here. The nucleus around which North Crosswicks grew up was the old grist mill which stood here away back in the 18th century and until sometime during the Revolution. One of our Township's first Committee-men, Enoch Middleton, built his home here in 1836.

A tannery was established in North Crosswicks by Samuel Fowler before 1800. It also contained a saw mill, a plaster mill, a turning mill, a blacksmith shop and a wheelwright shop.

North Crosswicks was the scene of a sharp, short encounter with the British. During the Revolutionary War the Colonial troops destroyed the then very old drawbridge and made a heroic attempt to stop the enemy. The Colonials fired several cannon balls, one of which lodged in the Friends' Meeting House across the Creek, where it remains today. These heroic defenders, in the opinion of historians, actually saved Trenton,

because they prevented reinforcements from reaching the British troops. Early in the 19th century several cannon balls were plowed up in the fields of Hamilton Township. In 1855 a covered bridge was erected over the Crosswicks Creek, the Hamilton Township end being on the Enoch Middleton property. This bridge was located a few hundred yards east of the present bridge. In 1866 a foot path bridge was added to it, the side toward the creek being enclosed in glass. A warning at the top of the bridge read, "Five Dollars Fine For Travelling Over This Bridge At a Faster Gait Than a Walk." The bridge was removed about 1910.

HAMILTON SQUARE

An ancient village is Hamilton Square—known as Nottingham Square for over a hundred years. There were six or eight dwellings and a church in Nottingham Square during the Revolutionary War days. Around the families of Cubberley, Hutchinson, Schooley, Appleton, Eldridge, Wilgus, Hughes, Nelson, Butcher, Taylor, Hill, Chambers and Reed, the village first came into history. Abram Eldridge was the largest land owner, his holdings being a mile square.

The road which runs east and west through the town was originally a crooked path leading from Trenton to Allentown and was used as early as 1725. This later became the Trenton-



Covered Bridge over the Crosswick Creek at North Crosswicks.

Allentown Turnpike, and the old toll gate house still stands on Nottingham Way a little to the east of the village.

The road through the village is the original road, but on leaving the village at each end it veered to the south. At the east end it passed to the south of the Saul Colonial Funeral home and continued in that direction until near the George Cubberley farm on Dye Road, when it veered to the north, coming into Newtown (Robbinsville) to join the present road. The road, on leaving the west end of the village, passed south of the old John S. West homestead, where it twisted up to Sandtown (Mercerville), and continued on to Trenton in a crooked manner on the line of the present Hamilton Avenue. This was the only road to Trenton until about 1808, when the present straight road was laid, and forking to the west at Sandtown, made two roads to Trenton. They were known as the "Millham" and "Millhill" roads.

The main thoroughfare, Nottingham Way, is very narrow through the center of the town, and it is said that when surveyors came to the west end of the Square, they found so many houses in the way that they could not lay the road, either straight or crooked, four rods wide, so they decided to stop at the west end and commence again at the east end.

The road which runs north and south, now known as Mercer Street, was blazed through the woods by the Quakers in going



Hamilton Square Baptist Church, before the spires were removed.

to and from their churches at Princeton and Crosswicks. This was used as early as 1720.

The old hotel was built about the year 1790 by David Chambers. It was said that Mr. Chambers borrowed more money than was prudent in erecting the building, and that William Nutt, who furnished the money, remarked that "Mr. Chambers is building it for me." The property soon passed to Mr. Nutt, who was a prominent land owner and one of the founders of the Baptist Church. He died in 1799 and, according to tradition, he bound his successor to furnish meals and lodging to all preachers who came to the village to preach, and also to give them what liquor they wanted without charge. We may smile or frown today at the idea of the clergymen wanting liquor, but it was a common thing in those times for everyone to drink.

The old hostelry has been altered several times, but its staunch old timbers remain intact. A fireplace occupied one corner of the barroom and in this old-time bonifaces kept a roaring fire in the winter to warm the weary traveler. Drinks were 3¢ each, and later when gin and brandy were kept, the price was 6¢ a drink.

Across the street from the hotel stood a swinging sign, the post of which was used as a whipping post. It was later moved to the east corner of the hotel. The last whipping in Nottingham Square occurred in 1840, when William Page and one Henry Clay were lashed for stealing some ducks.

In 1888 the hotel property was purchased by William Cady, who remodeled it and made it a Temperance House. After the death of Mr. Cady the property was bought by Robert E. Murphy. When the 18th Amendment was repealed, Mr. Murphy obtained a liquor license and the old building was again a



Street Scene taken about 1907.

hotel. After Mr. Murphy's death, his son, Leo H. Murphy, operated the hotel for a short time. Today the old building houses a drug store, barber shop and two apartments, and bears no resemblance to the original hotel erected so long ago.

Dr. George R. Robbins, the first Township physician, lived in Hamilton Square, and was elected to Congress, 1854-1855.

His nephew, Dr. George R. Robbins, was also a resident of Hamilton Square, and one of the best known and best loved physicians in Mercer County. He was a horse-and-buggy doctor, and rain, wind, hail, sleet or snow never kept him from answering a call, regardless of distance, whether it was day or middle of the night. Dr. Robbins was elected County Clerk in 1907 and was serving his third term at the time of his death in 1916.

All of the information in this book regarding old Nottingham Township has been taken from the records of my father, Joseph Harrison West, who was born in the township and lived all his adult life in Hamilton Square. He was a member and first Secretary of the Township Board of Education, and Secretary of the Board of Health; Township Clerk for several terms, then Assessor and later Tax Collector.

My father was often spoken of as "the Mercer County Historian" and is remembered by many for his historical



"Trolley Terminal"—Taken About 1907.

sketches about Mercer County, and in particular, Nottingham and Hamilton Townships. He also composed many poems of a patriotic nature. He passed away in 1916.

There is only one manufacturing industry in the village—the Mercer Rubber Company, which was organized in 1866 and called C. V. Mead & Co. In 1870 the business moved to Trenton. The mill here remained closed for some months, when the Mercer Rubber Co. took charge. The mill has been considerably improved and enlarged through the years and is now a flourishing establishment, owned by Frederick R. Sayen, of the village, and his brother, William Henry Sayen, of Princeton.

Mr. Frederick R. Sayen has deeded to the township a beautiful tract of land off Park Avenue, which is being developed as a park area, to be known as Sayen Park.

The Hamilton Square Water Co. supplies water from artesian wells to all except a small portion of the village at the west end, which gets its water from Trenton.

Hamilton Square is now in the throes of a building boom and many of the old farms are real estate developments.

MERCERVILLE

The name of this old hamlet was originally Sandtown, because of the sandy soil which used to drift about in the wind, but the liberal use of fertilizer stopped this and made the section the finest land for market gardening in the county.

At the time of the Revolutionary War there were about a half dozen houses in Sandtown, built chiefly of logs. Sandtown has been mentioned in lots of histories of the United States as the place through which General Washington and his army marched the night before the Battle of Princeton. The fact is Washington did not pass through Sandtown, but took a shorter route across farm lands to Miry Run, thus avoiding the angle at Sandtown.

Amos Hutchinson built the house located on the Edinburg Road, just beyond the corner, and erected a blacksmith shop on the corner. On the opposite corner William West built a house which until it was moved a few years ago, had been occupied by the Steiner family for years. West and Hutchinson went to the lowlands along the Crosswicks Creek and brought back the buttonwood trees, which stood like giants guarding the village for many years. Amos Hutchinson decided to give the settlement a name, so he erected a sign in front of his smithy with the name "Flourishtown", but the people didn't take to it and the sign disappeared in the night. The name "Five Lanes End" was also applied, but did not stick. For many years the older residents insisted on Sandtown, but in 1842 the

late James B. Coleman wrote Mercerville in the township records and was rewarded by seeing it generally accepted.

According to tradition the old hotel was built by the Nutt family, but it has been added to, and taken from, so that the original building would be hard to find. More than a hundred years ago it was owned by the Disbrow family. At that time the property owners of the village were the Disbrows, Fords, Amos Hutchinson, George Yard, William West, and others. Early in 1800 Amos Hutchinson became the owner of the hostelry and he rented it to Sylvanus Hutchinson, who kept it for several years. In the 1830's it was sold to a Trenton man, who disposed of it to one who was, perhaps, the most popular boniface ever to keep the old place. He was popularly known as "Gus Metlin", but his full name was Augustus Mathelin, and he was born in France and came to America with Joseph Bonaparte. When Bonaparte left Bordentown, Mathelin remained and came here and bought the old hotel. The wonderful success of Napoleon was still fresh in the minds of the people and gave them a decided preference for anything "Frenchy" but, aside from this, Gus was a jovial man and liked by all. He was also a gardener and introduced asparagus to this section.

Peter Rafferty succeeded him, and next came James Messler, who remained until the outbreak of the Civil War. James Risdon, John Laird, J. R. Burton, Stafford Sutton, Peter Anderson, James Milnor, Lewis Anderson, Phineas Girton and Fletcher Beatty all kept the tavern down through the years. Then came genial Levi Grant and William Gropp, Sr. He was succeeded by William Gropp, Jr. Charles and Frank L. Gropp succeeded him, and the present proprietor of the old hotel is Frank L. Gropp.

During the reign of the whipping post, the whippings took place in front of the old hotel, the last one happening in the 1830's and turned out to be a farce. The custom was getting out of date and it was not an easy matter to get a constable to lay on the lashes. A man had been sentenced to a number of lashes for some offence. He was stripped to the waist and tied to the post by William Hill, the constable, who threw a cloak over him while he went for a whip. A crowd gathered and William S. West slipped through the crowd, cut the rope and told the wretch to run. West took his place under the cloak. When Hill returned with the whip, he said, "My friend, I will be as merciful as I can." He approached to remove the cloak, when West bounded away, and Hill after him. Across the fields they went until Hill realized whom he was chasing. The cutting of the rope was a serious offense, but the people

were tired of the whipping post and laughed it off. Hill made no complaint against West.

Sandtown originally centered around the old hotel and most of the homes were near there, the adjoining area being farm land. At the junction of Hamilton Avenue and the Trenton-Allentown Turnpike (now Nottingham Way) was a toll house, located where the gas station is now operated. When the Turnpike was abolished, the toll house was moved across on Hamilton Avenue, remodeled and made into a double house.

The farms making up the original Sandtown territory have become real estate developments, and today Mercerville is a thriving community with hundreds of substantial homes and business houses. Rosemont and Creston form the western end of the village. Coral Homes, Trent Village and Quaker Gardens are located off the Quaker Bridge Road, and the Steiner Tract is near the center of the old village. Hamilton Village is located on the Southard farm on the south side of Hamilton Avenue, opposite the Donnelly Memorial Hospitals, which are owned and maintained by the city of Trenton.

BROMLEY

The section now called Bromley was, for the most part, the old Fashion Stud Farm of Henry N. Smith. After his death, his heirs formed a land company and Mr. Edmund C. Hill purchased acreage between Nottingham Way and Greenwood Avenue and called his development Bromley Place. The land across Greenwood Avenue was purchased by the H. J. Miller Realty Co., who developed Bromley Manor.

Another section of Bromley, between Connecticut and Atlantic Avenues, on the north side of Greenwood Avenue, was the old George Anderson farm. Greenwood Village now covers the once famous Woodlawn Park.

The eastern end of the Bromley section owes much of its growth to the late Joseph S. Steinert, whose home was at the corner of Nottingham Way and Klockner Road. He erected many homes on Nottingham Way, Klockner Road, Chewalla Drive and Cornell Avenue. The new school at the corner of Hamilton Ave. and Klockner Road is named in memory of Mr. Steinert.

One cannot think of the Bromley Section without recalling to mind one of the township's distinguished citizens who lived there many years. In November 1911 W. C. Rockhill Hart was elected Clerk of Hamilton Township, and hence became one of the most colorful figures in the township. "Rock", as he was affectionately called by one and all, was born in the township

near White Horse, but later moved to Johnston Avenue. He always stated that he went into politics against his will. According to his story, some people who had a grudge against him entered his name on the ballot as a justice of the peace. He decided to accept the post, and in 1911 was elected Township Clerk, a position he held for 25 years.

Until the Municipal Building was erected, Mr. Hart's office was on Walnut Avenue, half a block from Johnston Avenue, in a one-story frame building. This was not only Mr. Hart's office, but the first township jail. As a jail, there were two iron-barred cells.

Mr. Hart described himself as a "hard-boiled, rough-necked Democrat", but he was given a plurality of 23 votes in his first election campaign in a Republican community and each time he ran for office his pluralities increased. In 1920 the office was placed under tenure.

Mr. Hart rendered outstanding service to the township and will long be remembered.

HUTCHINSON'S MILLS

The section of the township known as Hutchinson's Mills sprang up around the mill operated by the late Congressman Elijah C. Hutchinson. This mill was a flourishing one for many years. Mr. Hutchinson served as State Senator from 1899 to 1904, and was elected to Congress for four terms, from 1915 to 1923. He was one of the original stockholders of the Inter-State Fair and served as its first Secretary. Mr. Hutchinson was also a director of the Broad Street National Bank. He died in 1932.

The Hamilton Supply Co., owned and operated by grandsons of Mr. Hutchinson, is located across from the Hutchinson home, and nearby are the great manufacturing plants on the East State Street Extension, and across the P.R.R. mainline are other huge manufacturing concerns.

Many fine homes have been erected on Klockner Avenue and adjacent streets in this section.

Thus endeth my little history. I hope you have found it both informative and interesting.

In this atomic age we sometimes become discouraged and it is necessary to look back through the pages of history to find the courage to go forward. Our township forefathers had courage and faith in God. May their faith and courage be incentives to carry us onward through this changing world.

H.A.W.

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

The present set-up of the Township government is as follows:

Mayor—Hervey S. Moore, Jr.

Committeemen: William J. Steiner
John E. Pierson
George R. Holland
Edmund D. Blake

Township Clerk—Frank A. Priest

Tax Collector and Treasurer—Harold A. Sutterley

Tax Assessor—Frank J. Unger

Solicitor—Henry F. Gill

Engineer—Myron X. Feld

Health Officer—Herman A. Lavan

Director of Welfare—Howard B. Teneous

Chief of Police—Thomas D. Simpson

Magistrate—James S. Kline

Superintendent of Sewers—Richard H. Klockner

Supervisor of Road Department—C. Edward Stilwell

Librarian—Mrs. Alice J. Grove

Supervisor of Schools—Howard D. Morrison

Clerk of the School Board—Willard F. Grimm

APPRECIATION

Besides paying tribute to the memory of my father, I want to thank Mrs. Earl H. Ridgeway for the research and writing she did in 1942, when the township celebrated its 100th anniversary, some of which material has been used in this book; to Mrs. Clarence B. Mount for the information pertaining to old schools in Yardville, and to our Township Clerk, Frank A. Priest, for his information and advice. For the loan of old pictures I want to express my appreciation to Mrs. Miriam Morris, Alfred M. Newbold, Clarence Margerum and Walter L. Gropp.

INDEX

Abbott, Ann 19
 Abbott, Dr. Charles C. 102
 Abbott, John 10, 17, 18, 19, 43, 44,
 45, 46, 49, 51, 52, 103.
 Abbott, Lacey 19, 20, 107.
 Abbott, Sally 19, 107.
 Abbott, Samuel 19.
 Abbott, Timothy 19, 20.
 Abrams, William 15.
 Acme-Hamilton Rubber Mfg. 82.
 Adams, Mary 59.
 Allen, James 39.
 Allentown 16, 17.
 Allentown Turnpike 76.
 Allinson, Caroline 29, 30.
 Allinson, Josiah T. 29, 86.
 Allinson, Rachel 29.
 Allinson, Samuel 29.
 American Legion 88.
 American Radiator & Standard
 Sanitary Corp. 82, 83.
 Anchor Thread Co. 110.
 Anderson, Anna 39.
 Anderson, Ann Maria 32.
 Anderson, Ezekiel 56.
 Anderson, James 78.
 Anderson, George 32, 40.
 Applegate, Thomas F. 80.
 Appleton, Abel 40.
 Appleton, Cornelius 39, 40.
 Appleton, James 40.
 Appleton, John 40.
 Appleton, Joseph 40.
 Appleton, Josiah 40.
 Appleton, Judith 40.
 Appleton, Mary 40.
 Appleton, Richard 40.
 Appleton, Thomas 40.
 Appleton, William 40.
 Appleton, Wilson 35.
 Arthur, Dr. F. M. 86.
 Assunpink Creek 6, 30, 32, 33, 34,
 49, 57, 63, 74, 75, 76, 77.
 Atchley, Sheriff 37.
 Atlantic Products Co. 82.
 Back Creek 72, 77.
 Ball, Peter 51.
 Baltimore 39.
 Barbary Coast 70.
 "Barrens, The" 35, 57, 75.
 Barricklo, Andrew 25.
 Barricklo, Catherine 25.
 Barricklo, William 25.
 Bayer Aspirin Co. 82.
 Beakes, Wm. 51, 52.
 "Bear Meade" 29.
 Bear Swamp 35, 74.
 Beatty, Gen. John 24.
 Beatty, Dr. Wm. 24.
 Beck Homestead 109.
 Beck, John A. 109.
 Beck's Woods 109.
 Bergen 5.
 Berkeley, Lord John 5, 9.
 Bidle, Wm. 45.
 Biehl, John C. 84.
 Biddle, Wm. 10.
 Biles, Charles 45.
 Biles, Thomas 10.
 Billinge, Edward 5.
 Blake, Edmund 84.
 Blauth, Wm. 43.
 Board of Health 80.
 Bonaparte, Joseph 26, 27, 28, 67,
 102, 116.
 Bonaparte, Napoleon 26, 27.
 Bonaparte Park 26.
 Bordentown 12, 17, 26, 55, 71, 72.
 Bordentown Water Works 13.
 Boston 14.
 Boston Tea Party 59.
 "Bow Hill" 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26,
 27, 28.
 Bowers, Isaac E. 86.
 Brainerd 7.
 Brearley, John 10, 45.
 Brettell, Richard P. 85.
 Briner, Wm. L., Jr. 86.
 British Isles 9.
 Broad Street 19.
 Broad Street Park 13, 19, 101, 102.
 Bromley 101, 117.
 Bromley Manor 117.
 Bromley Place 117.
 Buddy, Michael 109.
 Bunting, Job 46.
 "Burholme" 28, 30.
 Burlington 7, 8, 11, 16, 32, 46, 53.
 Burlington County 77.
 Cadwallader, General 32.
 Cady, William 40, 113.
 Camden & Amboy R. R. Co. 34, 63,
 108.
 Camp Casey 79.
 Camp Olden 79, 80.
 Canada 31, 32.
 Carlisle, Capt. Langston 40.
 Carteret, Sir George 5, 9.
 Carteret, Philip 5.
 Certain-Teed Products Co. 82.
 Chambersburg 82.
 Chambers, Elizabeth 41.
 Chambers, David 113.
 Chambers, Samuel F. 78.

INDEX

Charles II, 5, 9, 12, 53.
 Chattin, Wm. P, 37.
 Churches 89, 90.
 Church of England 13.
 Clarksville 57.
 Clayton, Mathew 10, 45.
 Clutch, John 40, 41.
 Coar, Mary 11, 15.
 Coates & Wilson 72, 73.
 Cole, Amos H. 80.
 Coleman, Caleb 78.
 Coleman, James 78, 79, 116.
 Coleman, Thomas 10, 45.
 Coleman, William 37.
 Colonial Manor 101.
 Congoleum-Nairn 82.
 Conner Millwork 82.
 Cook, George S. 78.
 Coral Homes 117.
 Cornell Heights 32, 101.
 Cox, Mary 39.
 Cranbury 31.
 Creston 117.
 Cromwell 53.
 Crosswicks 20, 32, 34, 57.
 Crosswicks Creek 11, 15, 17, 48, 51,
 53, 72, 77, 103.
 Crosswicks Sand & Gravel Co. 110.
 Cubberley, Asher S. 78.
 Cubberley, James 54.
 Cubberley, John C. 78.
 Cubberley, Mary 54.
 Cubberley, Sarah 61.
 Cubberley, Theodore 43.
 Cubberley, V. N. 39.
 Cubberley, William 54, 61.
 Darling, Lewis 39.
 Davenport, Francis 10, 48, 51.
 Davis, Jonathan 10, 45.
 Davison, James 36.
 DeCou, "Aunt Martha" 20, 106.
 DeCou Fire Co. 20, 106.
 DeCou Peter 19, 20, 78.
 DeCou School 20, 106.
 DeCou Village 19, 101.
 DeKlyn, Barnt 21, 22, 23, 24, 26.
 DeKlyn, Catherine 23.
 De Klyn, Kitty 23, 28.
 DeLaval Steam Turbine Co. 82.
 Delaware 5.
 Delaware, Lord 5.
 Delaware, Falls of the 8, 14.
 Delaware River 5, 14, 21, 28, 32,
 76, 77.
 Deutzville 101.
 Dilatush, Joseph Y. 37.
 Dilatush, Robert 37.
 Doctor's Creek 77, 110.
 Dog Town 101.
 Donnelly Memorial Hospitals 117.
 Douglas, Captain Alexander 12, 38,
 40.
 Douglas, John 12.
 Douglas, Lydia 38.
 Douglas, Robert 38.
 Douglas, William 12.
 Duck Island 101.
 Dye, Thomas F. 78.
 Earl, Sheriff 36.
 "East College" 34.
 East Jersey 5, 10.
 Eldridge, Abram 37, 38, 39, 111.
 Eldridge, Adeline 39.
 Eldridge, Alexander 39, 78.
 Eldridge, Elizabeth 39.
 Eldridge, Emma 39.
 Eldridge, George 38, 39.
 Eldridge, John 37, 39.
 Eldridge, Jonathan 37.
 Eldridge, Lydia Ann 39.
 Eldridge, Martha 37.
 Eldridge, Mary 39.
 Eldridge, Obadiah 37, 38.
 Eldridge Plantation 37.
 Eldridge, Robert 39.
 Eldridge, Samuel 39.
 Eldridge, William 39.
 Eldridge, Wilson 37, 39.
 Ely, Joshua 10, 44, 45.
 Embly, William 10, 44, 45, 46, 47,
 49, 50.
 Emley, Thomas 51.
 Emley, William, Jr. 51.
 Episcopal Church 13.
 Extonville 51, 101.
 Everett, James E. 85.
 Everham, Edmond 80.
 Farnsfield 13, 19.
 Fashion Stud Farm 98, 117.
 Fire Companies 85.
 First National Bank 86.
 Five Lanes End 115.
 Flourishtown 115.
 Ford, Martha 40.
 Ford, William 52.
 Fork Union 19.
 Forman, Clark 78.
 Foster Yarn Co. 82.
 Fouche, Julia 25.
 Fouche, Julie 25.
 Franklin, Benjamin 14.
 Fraser, Caroline Georgina 69.
 Fraternal Organizations 88.

INDEX

Freeman, Mary F. 87.
 French & Indian Wars 12.
 French, Richard 72.
 Fringer, Harry A. 109.
 Gatzmer, Wm. H. 37.
 General Electric Co. 82.
 Gilbert, Rebekah 40.
 Gilberthorp, Thos. 43, 44, 45, 46,
 48, 49, 51.
 Gill, Bennington 12.
 Gillenthorp, Thos 10.
 Ginglen, John 65, 78, 109.
 Goldy, Benjamin 80.
 "Grafton" 36.
 Grane, Matthew 10.
 Grange, Matthew 46, 49, 51.
 Green, Richard 8.
 Green, Thomas 10, 45.
 "Green Village" 39.
 Greenwood Village 117.
 Gropp, Andrew 105.
 Gropp, Charles 116.
 Gropp, Frank L. 116.
 Gropp, Walter 105.
 Gropp, William, Sr. 116.
 Gropp, William, Jr. 116.
 Gropp's Lake 72, 73.
 Grove, Mrs. David A. 88.
 Groveville 101, 110.
 Groveville Cabinet Works 110.
 "Groveville Gardens" 110.
 Guy, Richard 6.
 Hall, Gervas 10, 49, 51.
 Halstead, Colonel 75.
 Hamid, George A. 100.
 Hamilton, Alexander 76.
 Hamilton Square 39, 76, 82, 101,
 111.
 Hamilton Square Park 39.
 Hamilton Supply Co. 118.
 Hamilton Township 5, 6, 9, 10, 21,
 76, 77, 78, 80, 82.
 Hamilton Township Historical
 Society 25.
 Hamilton Village 117.
 Harrison, Armit A. 84.
 Hart, W. C. Rockhill 117.
 Helmsley, Jos. 6.
 Hendrickson, Henry 105.
 Hendrickson, John R. 86.
 Hendrickson, Joseph 78.
 Henry's Mill 32.
 Herring, Isaac 51.
 Hightstown 17, 25.
 Hill, Edmund C. 98, 117.
 Hillside Farm 32, 33.
 Hinkle, Charles 37.
 Hixson, Wm. 10, 43, 44, 45.
 Hobson Street 17.
 Hoff, Sarah 12.
 "Hog Back" 107.
 Holland, George R. 84.
 Hollingshead, Joshua 105.
 Homedell 101.
 Hopkinson House 12.
 Hopkinson, Mary Pearson 55.
 Hopkinson, Thomas 17, 55.
 Hoover, Albert 40.
 "Horse Thieves" 78.
 How, Robert 54.
 How, Sarah 54, 55.
 Howe, Sheriff 17.
 Hughes, Abner 75.
 Hughes, Wm. 75.
 Hull 7.
 Hunt, Abraham 12.
 Hunt, Ralph 10, 45.
 Hunt, Richard 19.
 Hunt, Samuel 10.
 Hunt, Solomon 60, 68.
 Hutchin, Hugh 43.
 Hutchinson, Amos 32, 115, 116.
 Hutchinson, David S. 73.
 Hutchinson, Elijah 32, 33, 34.
 Hutchinson, Elijah C. 33, 100, 118.
 Hutchinson, Elizabeth 32.
 Hutchinson, George 78.
 Hutchinson, John 12.
 Hutchinson, Jonathan 32.
 Hutchinson, Phebe 32.
 Hutchinson, Robert 40, 78.
 Hutchinson, Robert C. 36.
 Hutchinson, Sylvanus 116.
 Hutchinson's Mills 74, 101, 118.
 Imlay, William 12.
 Independence Ave. 19.
 Indians 6, 15, 45, 47, 48.
 Indians, Leni Lenape 7, 9, 30.
 Ivens, Caleb, Sr. 36.
 Ivins, Daniel 19, 78.
 Ivins, Robert Manning 19.
 Jacques, Richard 36, 37, 72.
 Jacques, Samuel R. 36, 72.
 Jamestown 5.
 Jegoes Island 6.
 Johnson, Ira 83.
 Johnson, Moses 109.
 Kelley, J. R. 39.
 Kerlington 13.
 King, Hermanus 49, 51.
 King, Streat 105.
 King, Sylvanus 10.

INDEX

King, William 105.
 Kinsey, John 6.
 Kirby, John B. 73.
 Knowles, Enoch 37, 78.
 Kuser Road, 19.
 Lakeside Park 73, 101, 107.
 Lalor, Barnt DeKlyn 23.
 Lalor, Caroline 25, 28.
 Lalor, DeKlyn 25.
 Lalor, Elizabeth 25.
 Lalor Estate 21.
 Lalor, Frank 25.
 Lalor, Howard 25.
 Lalor, Jeremiah 23, 24, 26, 78.
 Lalor, John Beatty 25.
 Lalor, Julia 25.
 Lalor, Kate 25.
 Lalor, Mary 25.
 Lalor, Wm. S. 25.
 Lalor Street 24.
 Lalor Tract 25, 51.
 Lamb, Patrick 35, 56.
 Lambert, John, Sr. 10, 44, 45, 46,
 49, 50.
 Lambert, John, Jr. 10, 45, 48.
 Lambert, Thomas 8, 10, 43, 44 46,
 48, 50.
 Lamberton, 8, 12, 101.
 Laurie, Joseph M. 72.
 Laurie's Mills 36, 48, 51, 72, 107.
 Lawrence Station 74.
 Lawrie, Gawen 5.
 Lee, Amos H. 78.
 Lees, John 10, 45.
 Leeson, John 46.
 Leni-Lenape Indians 7, 9, 30.
 Leonard, John 18.
 Library 87.
 Lieberman, Harry 84.
 Lions Club 85.
 Lippincott, Stacy B. 86.
 Locust Grove 110.
 "Locust Hill" 29.
 Longstreet, John 109.
 Loveless, Gershom 58, 59.
 Loveless, Mary 58.
 Lucas, Nicholas 5.
 Maidenhead Twp. 49.
 Marshall, Abraham 10, 49, 51.
 Martin, J. Roy 86.
 Martin's Lane 107.
 Mathelin, Gus 116.
 Maxle, Benjamin 10, 44.
 McChesney, Charles G. 36.
 McElmoyl, Wm. J. Co. 110.
 McGalliard, James 79.
 McGalliard School 106.
 McGalliard, Wm. V. 105.
 McKenna, Patrick 105.
 McKenna, Thomas 105.
 McKnight, John L. 36.
 Memorial Day 97.
 Mercer County 72, 76, 77.
 Mercer County Court House 75.
 Mercer County Detecting &
 Pursuing Society 79.
 Mercer, General 32, 57.
 Mercer Rubber Co. 81, 82, 115.
 Mercer Thread Co. 110.
 Mercerville 80, 101, 115, 116.
 Messler, James 116.
 Middlesex County 10.
 Middleton, Enoch 30, 31, 78, 100.
 Mill Hill 75.
 Miller, H. J. Realty Co. 98, 117.
 Miller, Wm. S. 51.
 Miry Run 42, 57, 74, 77, 115.
 Mitchell, Alfred 78.
 Monmouth County 76, 77.
 Moore, Hervey S., Jr. 84.
 Morris, Anthony 74.
 Morris, George 40.
 Mount, David 41.
 Mount, Edward P. 42.
 Mount, Elijah, 41.
 Mount, Enoch 42.
 Mount, Jasper 42.
 Mount, John 41.
 Mount, Joseph S. 37, 42.
 Mount, Mary 41.
 Mount, Matthias 41, 42.
 Mount, Rebecca 41.
 Mount, Richard 41.
 Mount, Robert 41.
 Mount, Samuel 41.
 Municipal Building 83.
 Murat, Prince 67, 68, 69, 105.
 Murfin, Ann 45, 46, 47.
 Murfin, John 51, 72.
 Murfin, Robert 43, 72.
 Murfin's Run 72.
 Murfin, Wm. 46, 47, 48, 49, 51.
 Murphy, Leo H. 114.
 Murphy, Robert E. 113.
 Napoleon, III 27.
 National Radiator Co. 82.
 Nearpara Rubber Co. 82.
 Nelson, John 109.
 Nelson, Michael 109.
 New Albion 8.
 New Albion Mills 72.
 Newbold, Alfred 32.
 Newbold, Godfred 8.

INDEX

Newbold, John 8.
 New Brunswick 16.
 Newell, Thos 8.
 New Jersey 5, 7, 8, 26, 35.
 New Jersey, College of 24.
 New Jersey State Fair 100.
 New Jersey Turnpike 109.
 New Swedeland Stream 5.
 New York 14, 26.
 Nicholson, Lindsay 37.
 Nicholson, Samuel P. 36, 37.
 North Crosswicks 30, 101, 110.
 Nottinghamshire 13, 19.
 Nottingham Bldg. & Loan Asso. 76.
 Nottingham Chapter, O.E.S. 76.
 Nottingham Fire Co. 76.
 Nottingham Square 32, 37, 38, 40,
 75, 111.
 Nottingham Town Book 43.
 Nottingham Township 7, 9, 10, 13,
 16, 36, 48, 75, 76, 78, 84.
 Nottingham Way 39, 76, 112.
 Nova Cesarea 5, 49.
 Nutt, Allison 39.
 Nutt, Wm. 113.
 Ogden, Governor 70.
 Olden, Camp 79, 80.
 Olden, Governor 79.
 Old Landing Road 107.
 Olive, Thomas 6.
 Overton, Samuel 10, 43, 45, 46, 47,
 48, 49, 51, 107.
 Paine, Thomas 16.
 Pancoast, John 19.
 Parent-Teacher's Asso. 87.
 Parent, Thos. J. 105.
 Parent, Thos. S. 78.
 Paxson, Maskill 109.
 Paxson, Wm. A. 86.
 Pearson, Achsah 12.
 Pearson, Anne 12.
 Pearson, Catherine 53.
 Pearson, Elizabeth 12, 53.
 Pearson, Grace 12.
 Pearson, Isaac 12, 15, 16, 17, 19,
 54, 70.
 Pearson, Joseph 53.
 Pearson, Mary 12.
 Pearson, Mary 17.
 Pearson, Rachel 12.
 Pearson, Robert 8, 10, 11, 43, 44,
 45, 46, 49, 51, 53, 71, 103.
 Pearson, Robert 17, 19.
 Pearson, Robert, II 11, 15.
 Pearson, Robert III 12, 15.
 Pearson, Sara 12.
 Pearson, Theodosia 12.
 Pearson, Thomas 12.
 Pearson, William 54.
 Pearson, William, Sr. 17, 70.
 Pearson, Commander Wm., Jr. 70.
 Pearson Memorial Methodist
 Church 17, 53.
 Penford, John 6.
 Penn, William 5, 6, 35, 37.
 Pennington, Wm. 36.
 Petit, Moses 10, 45.
 Petit, Nathaniel 10, 45.
 Pettit, Sterling 84.
 Petty, Nelson 72.
 Pharo, Ann 10, 45.
 Pharo, Gervas 45.
 Pharo, James 43.
 Philadelphia 12, 14, 26, 70.
 Phillip's Ford 32, 101.
 Phillips, Theophilus 10, 45.
 Piedman, Wolaston 78.
 Pierson, John E. 36.
 Pitman Race Track 103.
 Plantagenet 8.
 Point Breeze 26.
 Pointing, Mrs. Mary 18.
 Police Department 85.
 Pond Run 17, 77, 79.
 Potts, Thomas 8.
 Priest, Frank A. 84.
 Princessville 36.
 Princeton 16, 35, 56, 80.
 Princeton, Battle of 12, 32, 38, 75,
 115.
 Province Line 5, 35, 76.
 Quakers 6, 7.
 Quaker Bridge 34, 35, 56, 63, 74,
 75, 102.
 Quaker Gardens 117.
 Queen Anne 6, 14, 50, 53.
 Quicksall, Wm. 10, 44, 45, 46, 47,
 48, 49, 51.
 Quigley, Elizabeth 19.
 Quigley, Captain John 40.
 Quigley, Moses 78.
 Quigley, Philip 12.
 Quigley, Captain Robert 12, 40.
 Radford, Lewis 78.
 Radford, Samuel 51.
 Rafferty, Peter 116.
 Rainear, Jos. 25.
 Rall, Colonel 12.
 Rancocas Creek 76.
 Raritan Bay 5.
 Rednor, Simon 25.
 Reed, Andrew 12.

INDEX

Reed, I. Ely 86.
 Reed, Mary 40.
 Revell, Thos. 51, 51.
 Richardson, John 10, 45.
 Ridgeway, Richard 10, 45.
 Riden, James 105.
 Riverview Cemetery 14.
 Robbins, Dr. George R. 114.
 Robbins, Dr. George R., Sr. 78.
 Robbins, James C. 38.
 Robbins, Lester E. 86.
 Robbins, Ridgeway 80.
 Roebling, John A. 81.
 Rogers, Caleb C. 59.
 Rogers, Elizabeth 40.
 Rogers, Harvey E. 59, 86.
 Rogers, John 10, 44, 45, 46, 49, 51,
 Rogers, Tilton 78.
 Rose, Carney 17.
 Rossell, Margaret 36.
 Rosemont 117.
 Rowan, Andrew K. 102.
 Rowan School 102.
 Rulon, John H. 78.
 Rusling, Col. James 102.
 Rusling Hose Co. 86, 102.
 Sadley, Stephen 37.
 Salem 32.
 Sand Hills 65, 78, 107.
 Sandtown 40, 79, 112, 115.
 Satterley, John 104, 105.
 Savage, Annette 26, 27, 28.
 Sayen, Frederick R. 115.
 Sayen, William Henry 115.
 Sayen Park 115.
 Scholey, Sara 10, 45.
 Schools 91.
 Schwab Poultry Farm 41.
 Score Acres 39.
 Scott, Benjamin 6.
 Scott, Henry 10, 49.
 Scott, Joseph 68.
 Scott, Martin 10, 45, 46, 47.
 Scudder, Jos. B. 36.
 Scully, Thos. 23.
 Seigle, Charles 109.
 "Sent Pink" 45.
 Shabbaconk Creek 74.
 "Shield" 7, 11.
 Shove, Marvel 78.
 Shreve, Peter 72.
 Silverthorp, Thos. 10.
 Sinclair, Wm. C. 41, 78.
 Simpson, Thos. B. 85.
 Skirm, Chas. 79.
 Sloane-Blabon Co. 82.
 Smith, Elizabeth T. 25.
 Smith, Henry N. 98, 117.
 Smith, John 25.
 Smith, Samuel M. 80.
 Smith, Thomas 10, 45.
 South, Benjamin 38, 78, 104, 105.
 "South Hill" 11, 103.
 Spring Lake Park 19.
 Springdale Park 109.
 Spotswood 24.
 "Square Acres" 39.
 Stacy, Mahlon 8, 10, 43, 44, 48, 49,
 50, 51, 52, 74.
 Steiner, Wm. J. 84.
 Steiner Tract 117.
 Steinert, Jos. S. 117.
 St. Michael's Cemetery 27.
 Stewart, Geo. H. 78.
 Stevens, John 51.
 Stevens, Wm. 10, 49, 51.
 Sto-y Brook 34, 57.
 Sutterley, Harold A. 84, 85.
 Swedes 5.
 Switlik Parachute Co. 82.
 Tantum, John 10, 47, 48, 49, 51, 52.
 Taylor, Benjamin 37.
 Taylor, Israel 37.
 Taylor, Joel, Sr. 37.
 Taylor, John, 105, 109.
 Teunon, Charles G. 107.
 Thermoid Rubber Co. 82.
 Tindall, Elizabeth 11.
 Tindall, George 19.
 Tindall, John W. 19, 39.
 Tindall, Thomas 10, 15, 43, 44, 45,
 46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 42, 53.
 Tindall, Wm. 78.
 Tories 12, 16, 18.
 Trent House 14, 20.
 Trent Village 117.
 Trent, Major Wm. 21.
 Trenton 12, 14, 16, 18, 27, 36, 53,
 76, 77.
 Trenton Banking Co. 12, 24.
 Trenton, Battle of 12, 16, 40.
 Trenton Oilcloth Co. 82.
 Tucker, Henry 78.
 Tucker, Samuel 12, 18, 19, 105.
 Underground Railroad 29, 30.
 Union Bag & Paper Co. 82.
 Unger, Frank J. 85.
 Updike, Walter N. 86.
 VanBuren, Martin 36.
 Vandegrift, Samuel L. 79.
 Vanness, George 71, 105.

INDEX

Vanness, John 40.
 Vanness, Sarah 42.
 Vannest, Christopher 35, 75.
 VanZant, Mary 22.
 Voorhees, Major 78.
 Voorhies, Catherine 35.
 Voorhies, John 35.
 Waln, Amos M. 30.
 Waln, Joseph 78.
 Washington, General George 14, 23, 35, 55, 56, 57, 75, 80, 104, 105, 115.
 Washington Township 77.
 Warson Anna 10.
 Warson, Isaac 51.
 Warson, William 10.
 Watson's Creek 13.
 Watson, Elizabeth 13.
 Watson, John 13, 46.
 Watson, Joseph 14.
 Watson, Isaac 8, 10, 13, 14, 43, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51, 76.
 Watson, Matthew 10, 49, 51.
 Watson, William 10, 13, 19, 43, 45, 46, 49, 50, 51.
 Watson, Wm., Jr. 13.
 Weed, Hugh M. 36.
 Welsh, J. Norman 20.
 West, Bartholomew 36.
 West Jersey 5, 6, 72.
 West, John S. 75, 78.
 West, Joseph H. 76, 80, 114.
 West, Mahew 36.
 West, Robert 5.
 West, Susannah 14.
 West, Thomas 5.
 West, William S. 78, 79, 115, 116.
 West, William 14, 36.
 Westland, Nathaniel 49, 50.
 West Windsor Township 32, 77.
 Wetherill, John P. 37.
 Wheatley, Caleb 10, 46, 47, 48, 51.
 Wheeler, Robert 50.
 Whigs 16.
 White City Park 103.
 Whitehead's 32.
 Whitehead Rubber Co. 74, 81.
 White Horse 11, 17, 18, 19, 38, 53, 70, 72, 75, 101, 103.
 White Horse Tavern 103.
 Whittaker's Corner 39.
 Wilford, John, Sr. 44.
 Williams, Frederick 36.
 Wilgeese, Richard 51.
 Willey, E. S. 102.
 Willey School 102.
 Wills, Daniel 6.
 Wilson & Coates 72, 73.
 Wood, Dr. Armour C. 103.
 Wood, Thos. 8.
 Woodlawn Park 117.
 Woodward, Anthony 10, 43, 45.
 Woodward, Israel J. 78.
 Woodwardsville 110.
 Wooley, Samuel 78.
 Worth, Josiah S. 36.
 Wright, Joshua 10, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 52.
 Wright, Samuel 51.
 Wright, Thomas 51.
 Yard, Anna 40.
 Yard, Benjamin 12, 40.
 Yard, George 40, 116.
 Yard, John 107.
 Yardville 36, 48, 51, 72, 101, 107.
 Yardville Heights 101.
 Yardville National Bank 29, 86.
 York, Duke of 5, 9.
 York Road 16.
 Yorkshire Tenth 7, 9, 72, 76.
 Young, L. A. Spring & Wire Co. 82.
 Zwielein, Charles 109.

